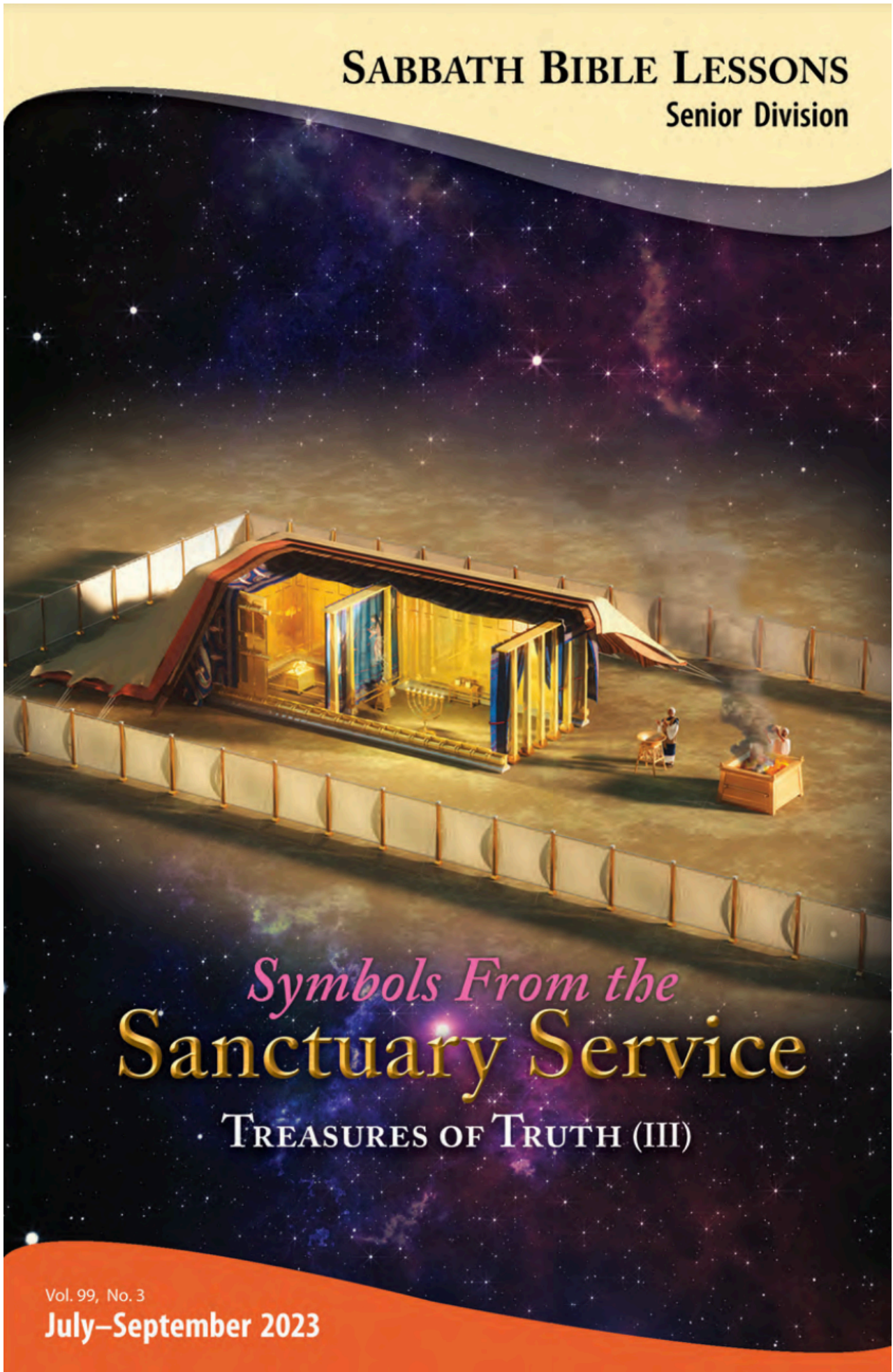


SABBATH BIBLE LESSONS

Senior Division



Symbols From the **Sanctuary Service**

TREASURES OF TRUTH (III)

Vol. 99, No. 3

July–September 2023

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Foreword

Most of us are visual learners. When we see a pattern or chart of something, it is usually easier to grasp and remember the concept of it. God knew this when He provided the sanctuary service to our ancient forefathers. The service and its symbols help us understand the solemn work which Christ, our great High Priest, is performing on our behalf in heaven at this very moment.

Therefore, for the next 3 months, Sabbath school students worldwide will study the vital topic, *Symbols From the Sanctuary Service*. This is the third part of a year-long series entitled *Treasures of Truth*, to equip us in preparing for eternity.

“The condition of the unbelieving Jews illustrates the condition of the careless and unbelieving among professed Christians, who are willingly ignorant of the work of our merciful High Priest. In the typical service, when the high priest entered the most holy place, all Israel were required to gather about the sanctuary and in the most solemn manner humble their souls before God, that they might receive the pardon of their sins and not be cut off from the congregation. How much more essential in this antitypical Day of Atonement that we understand the work of our High Priest and know what duties are required of us.”—*Christ in His Sanctuary*, p. 161.

“Could the veil which separates the visible from the invisible world be swept back, and the children of men behold an angel recording every word and deed, which they must meet again in the judgment, how many words that are daily uttered would remain unspoken, how many deeds would remain undone. . . .

“Sad is the record which angels bear to heaven. Intelligent beings, professed followers of Christ, are absorbed in the acquirement of worldly possessions or the enjoyment of earthly pleasures. Money, time, and strength are sacrificed for display and self-indulgence; but few are the moments devoted to prayer, to the searching of the Scriptures, to humiliation of soul and confession of sin.

“Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The archdeceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 487, 488.

“Every day renewed efforts in restraining and denying self are needed. Every day there are new battles to fight and victories to be gained. Every day the soul should be called out in earnest pleading with God for the mighty victories of the cross.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 429.

It is our prayer that we all may be strengthened by this quarter’s Sabbath Bible Lessons, gazing with the eye of faith to our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary!

The General Conference Sabbath School Department

July - First Sabbath Offering

for the Missionary School of the Southern African Region

The Zambia Union Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement was organized in 2012. Not long afterwards, an important aim was envisioned in harmony with the following words of Inspiration:

“There should be decided advancement in the matter of special preparatory work. In all our conferences there should be well-organized plans for the instruction and training of those who desire to give themselves to the work of God. Our city missions afford favorable opportunities for education in missionary labor; but these are not enough. There ought to be connected with our schools the best possible facilities for the preparation of laborers for both home and foreign fields.”—Gospel Workers, p. 75.

By the grace of God, in 2021 the Education Department of the General Conference came to help build a missionary training center in Lusaka, Zambia. This helps to serve all the East African countries, since Zambia is centrally located.

In 2022, the Zambia Union Mission purchased a plot of 16.2 hectares to be used for the construction of a chapel and missionary school. The land is fully paid for and owned by the Zambia Mission Union. By having the school here, enough land will be available for students to grow their own vegetables.

“The students are in our schools for a special training to become acquainted with all lines of work that should they go out as missionaries they could be self-reliant and able, through their educated ability, to furnish themselves with necessary conveniences and facilities. . . . They should be familiar with agriculture and with mechanical pursuits.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 208.

Building plans for the school project have already been prepared, consisting of two classrooms, a library, principal’s office, kitchen, dining hall, dormitories for 20 students, laundry facilities and teachers’ accommodations. However, the Union Mission does not have enough money to advance the construction project. It is estimated that it will cost about \$236,000 (US Dollars) to complete. We are therefore appealing to you, our brothers and sisters from all over the world, to help us realize this project. We pray that God will richly bless you as you give generously for the Zambia Union Mission School Project.

Your brothers and sisters in the Southern African Region

Lesson 1 - Sabbath, July 1, 2023

The Origin and the End of Sin

MEMORY TEXT: “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way” (2 Thessalonians 2:7).

“The harmony of creation depends upon the perfect conformity of all beings, of everything, animate and inanimate, to the law of the Creator.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 52.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 492-504.

Sunday, June 25

1. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

a. How does God’s character stand in contrast to sin—and what does this mean for us? Daniel 9:7; Matthew 5:48.

Daniel 9:7: *7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.*

Matthew 5:48: *48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

“God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligation to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong-doing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and every one who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 330.

PRQ1. What type of character does God possess?

Sunday, June 25

1. THE CHARACTER OF GOD

b. Since God is the ultimate in perfection, what are the only type of commands He can give? Psalm 119:172; Romans 7:12; James 1:13.

Psalm 119:172: *172 My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.*

Romans 7:12: *12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

James 1:13: *13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

“The law of God, from its very nature, is unchangeable. It is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. God is love, and His law is love. Its two great principles are love to God and love to man. ‘Love is the fulfilling of the law.’ Romans 13:10. The character of God is righteousness and truth; such is the nature of His law. . . . Such a law, being an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author.” —The Great Controversy, p. 467.

PRQ1. What type of character does God possess?

Monday, June 26

2. Harmony in God's Government

a. What is the relationship between the members of the Godhead? John 17:21.

John 17:21: *21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

“The most convincing argument we can give to the world of Christ’s mission is to be found in perfect unity. Such oneness as exists between the Father and the Son is to be manifest among all who believe the truth. Those who are thus united in implicit obedience to the word of God will be filled with power.”—Bible Training School, February 1, 1906.

“Have you thought of what this means to us; that in this prayer is included every son and daughter of Adam who will believe in Christ as a personal Saviour, and take the requisite steps [of] repentance, conversion, faith, and baptism? We are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and these three great, infinite Powers are unitedly pledged to work in our behalf if we will cooperate with them.”—Sermons and Talks, vol. 2, p. 167.

PRQ2. *How do the three persons in the Godhead work harmoniously?*

Monday, June 26

2. Harmony in God's Government

b. What principles form the basis of God's government? 1 John 4:16, 19; 5:3.

1 John 4:16: *16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

1 John 4:19: *19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

1 John 5:3: *3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

“‘God is love.’ 1 John 4:16. His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. ‘The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity,’ whose ‘ways are everlasting,’ changeth not. With Him ‘is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.’ Isaiah 57:15; Habakkuk 3:6; James 1:17.

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 33.

“God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 759.

“The soul that is in love with God and His work will be as candid as the day. There will be no quibbling, no evading the true bearing of scripture. God's word is our foundation of all doctrine. Some think it is a mark of intelligence and smart in them to get up side issues, and they twist the scriptures in a certain way which covers over the truth.” — The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 46.

PRQ2. How do the three persons in the Godhead work harmoniously?

Tuesday, June 27

3. Where Did Sin Originate?

a. How do we know the following passage of Scripture is not speaking of the literal king of Tyre? Ezekiel 28:11–15.

Ezekiel 28:11–15: *11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*

“The first sinner was one whom God had greatly exalted. He is represented under the figure of the prince of Tyrus flourishing in might and magnificence. Little by little Satan came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. . . . Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father has invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” —The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1162.

PRQ3. Under what illustration does Ezekiel describe the origin of sin?

Tuesday, June 27

3. Where Did Sin Originate?

b. What special role did Lucifer have in the government of God before his fall? Ezekiel 28:14 (compare the sanctuary service in Exodus 25:10–22).

Ezekiel 28:14: *14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*

Exodus 25:10–22: *10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. 12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. 13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. 15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it. 16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. 17 And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubim shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. 21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*

PRQ3. Under what illustration does Ezekiel describe the origin of sin?

Tuesday, June 27

3. Where Did Sin Originate?

c. What shows that he had special musical talent—and how does he skillfully use this in his work of deception? Ezekiel 28:13; Daniel 3:5–7.

Ezekiel 28:13: *13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*

Daniel 3:5–7: *5 That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: 6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

“I feel alarmed as I witness everywhere the frivolity of young men and young women who profess to believe the truth. God does not seem to be in their thoughts. Their minds are filled with nonsense. Their conversation is only empty, vain talk. They have a keen ear for music, and Satan knows what organs to excite to animate, engross, and charm the mind so that Christ is not desired. The spiritual longings of the soul for divine knowledge, for a growth in grace, are wanting.” —The Adventist Home, p. 407.

PRQ3. Under what illustration does Ezekiel describe the origin of sin?

Wednesday, June 28

4. The Root of Evil

a. What was the original cause of Lucifer's fall if we compare Ezekiel's and Isaiah's descriptions of that event? Ezekiel 28:16–19; Isaiah 14:12–20.

Ezekiel 28:16–19: *16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.*

Isaiah 14:12–20: *12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? 18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. 19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. 20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.*

Notes next page...

“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ Ezekiel 28:17. . . . Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 35.

PRQ4. What is one of the hardest sins to overcome, being the origin of iniquity?

Wednesday, June 28

4. The Root of Evil

b. What warnings can we personally take from this experience? Proverbs 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:12.

Proverbs 16:18: *18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

1 Corinthians 10:12: *12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

“Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry. Lucifer desired God’s power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same.”—The Desire of Ages, pp. 435, 436.

“Whenever pride and ambition are indulged, the life is marred, for pride, feeling no need, closes the heart against the infinite blessings of Heaven.”—Prophets and Kings, p. 60.

PRQ4. What is one of the hardest sins to overcome, being the origin of iniquity?

Wednesday, June 28

4. The Root of Evil

**c. How did the heavenly host eliminate this note of disunity from its ranks?
Revelation 12:7–9.**

Revelation 12:7–9: *7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

“It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. All Heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at their head. Satan was warring against the law of God, because ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of God’s Son, Heaven’s great commander.” — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 22.

PRQ4. What is one of the hardest sins to overcome, being the origin of iniquity?

Thursday, June 29

5. The End of Evil

**a. How did Satan degenerate even further after being expelled from heaven?
John 8:44.**

John 8:44: *44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

“Satan, who is the father of lies, deceived Adam . . . , telling him that he need not obey God, that he would not die if he transgressed the law. But Adam fell, and by his sin he opened the floodgates of woe upon our world. Again, Satan told Cain that he need not follow expressly the command of God in presenting the slain lamb as an offering. Cain obeyed the voice of the deceiver. . . .

“We need to know for ourselves what voice we are heeding, whether it is the voice of the true and living God or the voice of the great apostate.”—Evangelism, p. 598.

PRQ5. How and why does evil finally come to an end?

Thursday, June 29

5. The End of Evil

b. How and why will this root of evil finally be destroyed? Hebrews 2:14; Malachi 4:1–3; 2 Peter 3:9–14.

Hebrews 2:14: *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

Malachi 4:1–3: *1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

2 Peter 3:9–14: *9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

“The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God’s unchanging love.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 33.

PRQ5. How and why does evil finally come to an end?

Thursday, June 29

5. The End of Evil

c. Although it seems that evil is not being punished quickly, what promise does God give about its total elimination? Ecclesiastes 8:11; Nahum 1:9.

Ecclesiastes 8:11: *11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*

Nahum 1:9: *9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.*

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.” — The Great Controversy, p. 678.

PRQ5. How and why does evil finally come to an end?

Friday, June 30

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What type of character does God possess?**
- 2. How do the three persons in the Godhead work harmoniously?**
- 3. Under what illustration does Ezekiel describe the origin of sin?**
- 4. What is one of the hardest sins to overcome, being the origin of iniquity?**
- 5. How and why does evil finally come to an end?**

Lesson 2 - Sabbath, July 8, 2023

Sin: Its Entrance and Its Eradication

MEMORY TEXT: “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8).

“Through long intercourse with idolaters the people of Israel had mingled many heathen customs with their worship; therefore the Lord gave them at Sinai definite instruction concerning the sacrificial service.” —Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 364.

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 343-358.

Sunday, July 2

1. In The Beginning

a. What kind of world did God create in the very beginning? **Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29.**

Genesis 1:31: *31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

Ecclesiastes 7:29: *29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.*

PRQ1. *Why were two trees placed in the garden of Eden?*

Sunday, July 2

1. In The Beginning

b. Although God intended for the human race to live forever, why were two trees placed in the Garden of Eden? Genesis 2:9.

Genesis 2:9: *9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

“When our first parents were placed in the beautiful garden of Eden, they were tested in regard to their loyalty to God. They were free to choose the service of God, or by disobedience to ally themselves with the enemy of God and man. If they would abstain from that which God had forbidden, they might keep possession of their beautiful Eden home, and remain in the favor of God, but if they disregarded God’s commands, and listened to the voice of Satan, as he spoke through the serpent, they would not only forfeit their claim to Eden, but to life itself. The penalty for sin had been set before them, and they were informed as to the tremendous issues depending on their action in obeying or disobeying the requirements of God.” — The Signs of the Times, May 12, 1890.

PRQ1. Why were two trees placed in the garden of Eden?

Sunday, July 2

1. In The Beginning

c. When humanity disobeyed, how was that shown to be sin? Romans 5:12, 19.

Romans 5:12: *12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Romans 5:19: *19 For as by one mans disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

“The Lord requires at this time just what He required of Adam in Eden—perfect obedience to the law of God.”—Faith and Works, p. 89.

PRQ1. Why were two trees placed in the garden of Eden?

Monday, July 3

2. After Sin

a. Why is it that there was no way of escaping the death sentence? **Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23; 7:5.**

Genesis 2:17: *17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Romans 6:23: *23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 7:5: *5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*

“The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man’s experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist.” —Education, p. 29.

PRQ2. *Why is it that death is the natural result of transgressing against God’s will and ways?*

Monday, July 3

2. After Sin

b. Why is it that the natural result of sin is death? Ezekiel 18:20 (first part); 1 John 5:12.

Ezekiel 18:20: *20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

1 John 5:12: *12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

“Satan’s rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin. The working out of Satan’s rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God’s government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy intelligences, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin and suffering its punishments.” —The Great Controversy, p. 499.

PRQ2. Why is it that death is the natural result of transgressing against God’s will and ways?

Monday, July 3

2. After Sin

c. What causes separation from God, i.e., separation from life? Isaiah 59:2.

Isaiah 59:2: *2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

“By sin man was shut out from God. Except for the plan of redemption, eternal separation from God, the darkness of unending night, would have been his. Through the Saviour’s sacrifice, communion with God is again made possible. We may not in person approach into His presence; in our sin we may not look upon His face; but we can behold Him and commune with Him in Jesus, the Saviour.” — Education, p. 28.

“Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ’s agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him.” — Ibid., p. 263.

PRQ2. Why is it that death is the natural result of transgressing against God’s will and ways?

Monday, July 3

2. After Sin

d. What is sin—and have any been exempt from it? 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23.

1 John 3:4: *4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Romans 3:23: *23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

PRQ2. *Why is it that death is the natural result of transgressing against God's will and ways?*

Tuesday, July 4

3. A Way of Escape

a. Who is the real serpent and what has he done to the entire world?

Revelation 12:9; 2 Peter 2:19; Romans 8:22.

Revelation 12:9: *9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

2 Peter 2:19: *19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*

Romans 8:22: *22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

“There is in human nature, when separated from the Source of truth, a continual opposition to God’s will and ways. The physical, mental, and moral being are all under the control of rash impulses. The affections are depraved, and every faculty intrusted to man for wise improvement is demoralized. The man is dead in trespasses and sins. Inclination moves, passion holds the control, and his appetites are under the sway of a power of which he is not aware. He talks of liberty, of freedom of action, while he is in most abject slavery. He is not his own. He is not allowed to see the beauty of the truth; for the carnal mind is enmity against God, and not subject to His law. He views truth as falsehood, and falsehood as truth. The mind controlled by Satan is weak in moral power.” — The Review and Herald, February 17, 1891.

PRQ3. What in reality is the enmity that was miraculously introduced into the human family?

Tuesday, July 4

3. A Way of Escape

b. What causes us to remain in slavery? Romans 6:16; 8:5.

Romans 6:16: *16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

Romans 8:5: *5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

PRQ3. *What in reality is the enmity that was miraculously introduced into the human family?*

Tuesday, July 4

3. A Way of Escape

c. How was the plan of redemption first introduced to this universe and who is the seed of the woman? Genesis 3:14, 15; 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16, 29.

Genesis 3:14-15: *14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Genesis 22:18: *18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Galatians 3:8: *8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*

Galatians 3:16: *16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*

Galatians 3:29: *29 And if ye be Christs, then are ye Abrahams seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

“The instant Adam yielded to Satan’s temptation, and did the very thing which God had said he should not do, Christ, the Son of God, stood between the living and the dead, saying: ‘Let the punishment fall on Me. I will stand in man’s place. Give him another trial.’ Transgression placed the whole world under the death sentence. But in heaven there was heard a voice saying, ‘I have found a ransom.’” —The Signs of the Times, June 27, 1900.

PRQ3. What in reality is the enmity that was miraculously introduced into the human family?

Tuesday, July 4

3. A Way of Escape

d. How is that “enmity” (Genesis 3:15) which is introduced into every believer described by Paul? Romans 12:2.

Genesis 3:15: *15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Romans 12:2: *2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

“Nothing more quickly inspires faith than the exercise of faith.” —Prophets and Kings, p. 351.

“Faith that enables us to receive God’s gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word.” —Education, pp. 253, 254.

PRQ3. What in reality is the enmity that was miraculously introduced into the human family?

Wednesday, July 5

4. Blood Sacrifice

a. Why is Bible study vital in the plan of redemption? Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 4:2.

Romans 10:17: *17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

2 Timothy 4:2: *2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

PRQ4. *How important is a right blood sacrifice in the restoration of humanity?*

Wednesday, July 5

4. Blood Sacrifice

b. When and why did Christ choose to come to have His heel bruised (Genesis 3:14, 15)? Hebrews 2:14, 15; Romans 8:2, 3; 16:25, 26; Revelation 13:8.

Genesis 3:14-15: *14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Hebrews 2:14-15: *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Romans 8:2-3: *2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

Romans 16:25-26: *25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

Revelation 13:8: *8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

“The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant.” — The Faith I Live By, p. 77.

Continued...

“The death of Christ upon the cross made sure the destruction of him who has the power of death, who was the originator of sin. When Satan is destroyed, there will be none to tempt to evil; the atonement will never need to be repeated; and there will be no danger of another rebellion in the universe of God. That which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels. Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 5, p. 1132.

PRQ4. How important is a right blood sacrifice in the restoration of humanity?

Wednesday, July 5

4. Blood Sacrifice

c. Why was a blood sacrifice necessary? Hebrews 9:22.

Hebrews 9:22: *22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

“Fallen man, because of his guilt, could no longer come directly before God with his supplications; for his transgression of the divine law had placed an impassable barrier between the holy God and the transgressor. But a plan was devised that the sentence of death should rest upon a Substitute. In the plan of redemption there must be the shedding of blood, for death must come in consequence of man’s sin. The beasts for sacrificial offerings were to prefigure Christ. In the slain victim, man was to see the fulfillment for the time being of God’s word, ‘Thou shalt surely die.’ And the flowing of the blood from the victim would also signify an atonement. There was no virtue in the blood of animals; but the shedding of the blood of beasts was to point forward to a Redeemer who would one day come to the world and die for the sins of men. And thus Christ would fully vindicate His Father’s law.” —
Confrontation, pp. 21, 22.

PRQ4. *How important is a right blood sacrifice in the restoration of humanity?*

Thursday, July 6

5. Symbols

a. Why was an animal sacrifice introduced? Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 2:14, 15.

Genesis 3:21: *21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

Hebrews 2:14-15: *14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

“To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God’s dear Son could expiate. And he marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A star of hope illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 68.

PRQ5. Why is a lamb a central symbol of salvation and in all the ceremonial services?

Thursday, July 6

5. Symbols

b. Why was it a lamb that was sacrificed and how was this made into an entire ceremonial service? Genesis 4:2–4; John 1:29; Exodus 25:8.

Genesis 4:2–4: *2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

John 1:29: *29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Exodus 25:8: *8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

“During his stay in the mount, Moses received directions for the building of a sanctuary in which the divine presence would be specially manifested. . . .

“Henceforth the people were to be honored with the abiding presence of their King.”
—Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 313, 314.

PRQ5. Why is a lamb a central symbol of salvation and in all the ceremonial services?

Thursday, July 6

5. Symbols

c. Why was a tabernacle used to symbolize God's presence? Revelation 21:3, 4.

Revelation 21:3-4: *3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

PRQ5. *Why is a lamb a central symbol of salvation and in all the ceremonial services?*

Friday, July 7

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why were two trees placed in the garden of Eden?

2. Why is it that death is the natural result of transgressing against God's will and ways?

3. What in reality is the enmity that was miraculously introduced into the human family?

4. How important is a right blood sacrifice in the restoration of humanity?

5. Why is a lamb a central symbol of salvation and in all the ceremonial services?

Lesson 3 - Sabbath, July 15, 2023

The New and Living Way

MEMORY TEXT: “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Romans 5:10).

“By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith, we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Saviour. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus. . . . By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 391.

Suggested Reading: *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 383-394.

Sunday, July 9

1. THE ROCK OF AGES

a. What illustration is used to depict the strength of the foundation of the Christian faith? Exodus 17:5, 6; Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 10:4.

Exodus 17:5-6: *5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

Deuteronomy 32:4: *4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

1 Corinthians 3:11: *11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 10:4: *4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

“That rock was a symbol of Him who by His death would cause living streams of salvation to flow to all who are athirst. Christ’s words were the water of life. . . . In smiting Christ, Satan thought to destroy the Prince of life; but from the smitten rock there flowed living water.”—The Desire of Ages, p. 454.

PRQ1. Why is Christ’s birth in a manger insufficient to save humanity?

Sunday, July 9

1. THE ROCK OF AGES

b. How did Jesus choose to come into this world—and why? Luke 2:9–12.

Luke 2:9–12: *9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

“It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.” —Ibid., pp. 48, 49.

PRQ1. Why is Christ’s birth in a manger insufficient to save humanity?

Monday, July 10

2. WORKING MIRACLES

a. What should we realize about the one who was to prepare the way for the Messiah—and how did his work relate to miracles? Malachi 4:5; Matthew 11:14; Luke 7:28; John 10:41.

Malachi 4:5: *5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

Matthew 11:14: *14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

Luke 7:28: *28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*

John 10:41: *41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.*

“John [the Baptist] separated himself from friends and from the luxuries of life. The simplicity of his dress, a garment woven of camel’s hair, was a standing rebuke to the extravagance and display of the Jewish priests, and of the people generally. His diet, purely vegetable, of locusts and wild honey, was a rebuke to the indulgence of appetite and the gluttony that everywhere prevailed. . . . Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ’s first advent. The great subject of reform is to be agitated, and the public mind is to be stirred.”—
Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 62.

PRQ2. Why are the miracles of Christ insufficient for salvation?

Monday, July 10

2. WORKING MIRACLES

b. What activities of Jesus often led people to trust Him as the Messiah? John 6:2, 26, 30.

John 6:2: *2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.*

John 6:26: *26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.*

John 6:30: *30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?*

PRQ2. *Why are the miracles of Christ insufficient for salvation?*

Monday, July 10

2. WORKING MIRACLES

**c. What is our danger if we trust in miracles as the foundation of our faith?
Matthew 24:24; Revelation 16:13, 14; 13:11–14.**

Matthew 24:24: *24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Revelation 16:13-14: *13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

Revelation 13:11–14: *11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when celestial glory and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. . . . Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God’s people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought.” —Ibid., vol. 9, p. 16.

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“Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.” —The Great Controversy, p. 560.

“No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan’s agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do.” —Ibid., p. 553.

PRQ2. Why are the miracles of Christ insufficient for salvation?

Tuesday, July 11

3. CALVARY

a. What crisis of faith would eventually lead Jesus to the cross? John 6:51–53; Matthew 27:22.

John 6:51–53: *51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.*

Matthew 27:22: *22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.*

“The prejudice of the Pharisees lay deeper than their questions would indicate; it had its root in the perversity of their hearts. Every word and act of Jesus aroused antagonism in them; for the spirit which they cherished could find in Him no answering chord.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 387.

“The unbelieving Jews refused to see any except the most literal meaning in the Saviour’s words. By the ritual law they were forbidden to taste blood, and they . . . construed Christ’s language into a sacrilegious speech, and disputed over it among themselves.” — *Ibid.*, p. 390.

PRQ3. How important for our reconciliation with God is the death of Christ?

Tuesday, July 11

3. CALVARY

b. For what purpose did Jesus choose to die? Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 7:14.

Hebrews 9:22: *22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

Revelation 7:14: *14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

“The provision has been made for us to wash. The fountain has been prepared at infinite expense, and the burden of washing rests upon us, who are imperfect before God. The Lord does not propose to remove these spots of defilement without our doing anything on our part. We must wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb. We may lay hold of the merits of the blood of Christ by faith, and through His grace and power we may have strength to overcome our errors, our sins, our imperfections of character, and come off victorious, having washed our robes in the blood of the Lamb.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 183.

PRQ3. How important for our reconciliation with God is the death of Christ?

Tuesday, July 11

3. CALVARY

c. Did Christ's death lead people to trust Him as Saviour? Luke 24:2, 3, 21.

Luke 24:2-3: *2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. 3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

Luke 24:21: *21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.*

“Trouble seemed crowding upon trouble. On the sixth day of the week they had seen their Master die; on the first day of the next week they found themselves deprived of His body, and they were accused of having stolen it away for the sake of deceiving the people. They despaired of ever correcting the false impressions that were gaining ground against them.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 794.

“After the death of Christ the disciples were well-nigh overcome by discouragement. Their Master had been rejected, condemned, and crucified. The priests and rulers had declared scornfully, ‘He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.’ Matthew 27:42. The sun of the disciples’ hope had set, and night settled down upon their hearts. Often they repeated the words, ‘We trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel.’ Luke 24:21.” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 25.

PRQ3. How important for our reconciliation with God is the death of Christ?

Wednesday, July 12

4. RESURRECTION

a. What type of foundation is Jesus to the believer? Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19, 20; 1 Peter 2:5, 6.

Matthew 16:18: *18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Ephesians 2:19-20: *19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

1 Peter 2:5-6: *5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

PRQ4. Why is the resurrection the key to salvation?

Wednesday, July 12

4. RESURRECTION

b. How important is a living Saviour to our faith? 1 Corinthians 15:12–20.

1 Corinthians 15:12–20: *12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

PRQ4. *Why is the resurrection the key to salvation?*

Wednesday, July 12

4. RESURRECTION

c. The death of Christ brings reconciliation; what does His resurrection bring? Romans 5:8–10; John 11:25, 26.

Romans 5:8–10: *8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

John 11:25-26: *25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

“The Waldenses longed to break to these starving souls the bread of life, to open to them the messages of peace in the promises of God, and to point them to Christ as their only hope of salvation. The doctrine that good works can atone for the transgression of God’s law they held to be based upon falsehood. Reliance upon human merit intercepts the view of Christ’s infinite love. Jesus died as a sacrifice for man because the fallen race can do nothing to recommend themselves to God. The merits of a crucified and risen Saviour are the foundation of the Christian’s faith. The dependence of the soul upon Christ is as real, and its connection with Him must be as close, as that of a limb to the body, or of a branch to the vine.” — The Great Controversy, p. 73.

“Over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, Christ had proclaimed in triumph, ‘I am the resurrection, and the life.’ These words could be spoken only by the Deity. All created beings live by the will and power of God. They are dependent recipients of the life of God. From the highest seraph to the humblest animate being, all are replenished from the Source of life. Only He who is one with God could say, I have power to lay down My life, and I have power to take it again. In His divinity, Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death.” — The Desire of Ages, p. 785.

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“The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life. [John 11:25, 26 quoted.] Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His word and His works He declared Himself the Author of the resurrection. He who Himself was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life.” —Ibid., p. 530.

“By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He lays hold upon the throne of God. As the Son of man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey.” —Ibid., p. 24.

PRQ4. Why is the resurrection the key to salvation?

Thursday, July 13

5. Heavenly Ministry

a. To what does faith in a living Saviour lead us? Romans 5:11; Hebrews 8:1, 2, 6, 9–11; 1 Peter 1:3, 4.

Romans 5:11: *11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Hebrews 8:1-2: *1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

Hebrews 8:6: *6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

Hebrews 8:9–11: *9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*

1 Peter 1:3-4: *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

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“When the disciples went back to Jerusalem, the people looked upon them with amazement. After the trial and crucifixion of Christ, it had been thought that they would appear downcast and ashamed. Their enemies expected to see upon their faces an expression of sorrow and defeat. Instead of this there was only gladness and triumph. Their faces were aglow with a happiness not born of earth. They did not mourn over disappointed hopes, but were full of praise and thanksgiving to God. With rejoicing they told the wonderful story of Christ’s resurrection and His ascension to heaven, and their testimony was received by many.

“The disciples no longer had any distrust of the future. They knew that Jesus was in heaven, and that His sympathies were with them still. They knew that they had a friend at the throne of God, and they were eager to present their requests to the Father in the name of Jesus.” — *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 832, 833.

PRQ5. Where does a living Saviour point the believer?

Thursday, July 13

5. Heavenly Ministry

b. What must we do in order to have our conscience purged from the memory of sin? Matthew 21:42, 44; Hebrews 10:16, 19, 20.

Matthew 21:42: *42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lords doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

Matthew 21:44: *44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

Hebrews 10:16: *16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

Hebrews 10:19-20: *19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*

“Just as soon as you commit sin, you should flee to the throne of grace, and tell Jesus all about it. You should be filled with sorrow for sin, because through sin you have weakened your own spirituality, grieved the heavenly angels, and wounded and bruised the loving heart of your Redeemer. When you have asked Jesus in contrition of soul for His forgiveness, believe that He has forgiven you. Do not doubt His divine mercy or refuse the comfort of His infinite love.” — Selected Messages, bk. 3, p. 196.

PRQ5. Where does a living Saviour point the believer?

Thursday, July 13

5. Heavenly Ministry

c. Why did we need our living Saviour to first live as a human being upon the earth? Hebrews 2:17, 18; 4:14–16; Romans 8:34.

Hebrews 2:17-18: *17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

Hebrews 4:14–16: *14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Romans 8:34: *34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

PRQ5. Where does a living Saviour point the believer?

Friday, July 14

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is Christ's birth in a manger insufficient to save humanity?

2. Why are the miracles of Christ insufficient for salvation?

3. How important for our reconciliation with God is the death of Christ?

4. Why is the resurrection the key to salvation?

5. Where does a living Saviour point the believer?

Lesson 4 - Sabbath, July 22, 2023

Hope for the Sinner

MEMORY TEXT: “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25).

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 333.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 479-491.

Sunday, July 16

1. JUDGMENT

a. How do the choices we make in life affect our ultimate outcome?

Ecclesiastes 11:9.

Ecclesiastes 11:9: *9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.*

PRQ1. *Who and what is to be judged in the pre-Advent judgment?*

Sunday, July 16

1. JUDGMENT

**b. Are only open, wicked things being judged—and are there any exceptions?
Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14; Romans 14:12.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14: *13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Romans 14:12: *12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

“The law of God condemns not only what we have done but what we have not done. We will, in the day of final accounts, find a register of the sins of omission as well as the sins of commission. God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. It is not enough that by your own measurement of character you prove you have done no positive wrong. The fact that one has done no positive good will be enough to condemn him as a wicked and slothful servant.”—The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 374.

“Every man’s work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.”—The Great Controversy, p. 482.

PRQ1. Who and what is to be judged in the pre-Advent judgment?

Monday, July 17

2. Twenty-Four Elders

a. Are some actions of individuals judged before others or are all of them judged at the same time? 1 Timothy 5:24; 1 Peter 4:17.

1 Timothy 5:24: *24 Some mens sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.*

1 Peter 4:17: *17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?*

“In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period.” —The Great Controversy, p. 480.

PRQ2. With what are the 24 elders involved with and what prepared them?

Monday, July 17

2. Twenty-Four Elders

b. Who is assisting Christ in His mediatorial work in heaven and from where did they come? Revelation 4:4; 5:8, 9; Ephesians 4:8; Matthew 27:52, 53.

Revelation 4:4: *4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

Revelation 5:8-9: *8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

Ephesians 4:8: *8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

Matthew 27:52-53: *52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

“As Christ arose, He brought from the grave a multitude of captives. The earthquake at His death had rent open their graves, and when He arose, they came forth with Him. They were those who had been co-laborers with God, and who at the cost of their lives had borne testimony to the truth. Now they were to be witnesses for Him who had raised them from the dead.

“During His ministry, Jesus had raised the dead to life. He had raised the son of the widow of Nain, and the ruler’s daughter and Lazarus. But these were not clothed with immortality. After they were raised, they were still subject to death. But those who came forth from the grave at Christ’s resurrection were raised to everlasting life. They ascended with Him as trophies of His victory over death and the grave. These, said Christ, are no longer the captives of Satan; I have redeemed them. I have brought them from the grave as the first fruits of My power, to be with Me where I am, nevermore to see death or experience sorrow.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 786.

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“Those who had been raised were to be presented to the universe as a pledge of the resurrection of all who believe in Christ as their personal Saviour. The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Christ, as His bride, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the heavenly courts, the world above. The victory of the sleeping saints will be glorious on the morning of the resurrection. Satan’s triumph will end, while Christ will triumph in glory and honor.” —Selected Messages, bk. 1, pp. 305, 306.

PRQ2. With what are the 24 elders involved with and what prepared them?

Monday, July 17

2. Twenty-Four Elders

c. Where and with whom are these occupied in their work? Revelation 4:1–3, 8; Psalm 11:4; Daniel 7:9–11.

Revelation 4:1–3: *1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

Revelation 4:8: *8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

Psalm 11:4: *4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORDS throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

Daniel 7:9–11: *9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.*

PRQ2. With what are the 24 elders involved with and what prepared them?

Tuesday, July 18

3. THE TYPE OF SENTENCE NEEDED

a. By what are we judged by and how is the verdict determined? James 2:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

James 2:12: *12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*

2 Corinthians 5:10: *10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

PRQ3. What kind of sentence is needed and why is character so important?

Tuesday, July 18

3. THE TYPE OF SENTENCE NEEDED

b. What type of character is needed to pass this kind of judgment? Matthew 5:48; Revelation 22:14.

Matthew 5:48: *48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Revelation 22:14: *14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

“The transgression of God’s commandments deprived man of all right to the tree of life. Christ died, that by virtue of His blood, obedience to God’s law might make man worthy of the heavenly benediction, and grant him a right again to the tree of life.” —Spiritual Gifts, vol. 3, p. 88.

“How can we reach the perfection specified by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—our Great Teacher? Can we meet His requirement and attain to so lofty a standard? We can, else Christ would not have enjoined us to do so. He is our righteousness. In His humanity He has gone before us and wrought out for us perfection of character. We are to have the faith in Him that works by love and purifies the soul. Perfection of character is based upon that which Christ is to us. If we have constant dependence on the merits of our Saviour, and walk in His footsteps, we shall be like Him, pure and undefiled.” —That I May Know Him, p. 130.

“Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’ We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.” —Early Writings, p. 17.

“When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin; for Christ will be working with us. We may make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the sufferings of the Son of God. A door has been opened, and no man can close it, neither the highest powers nor the lowest; you alone can close the door of your heart, so that the Lord cannot reach you. You have been having light from heaven for the past year and a half, that the Lord would have you bring into your character and weave into your experience.” —The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 545.

PRQ3. What kind of sentence is needed and why is character so important?

Tuesday, July 18

3. THE TYPE OF SENTENCE NEEDED

c. What is the main problem with the character of humanity? Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:10.

Romans 3:23: *23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

1 John 1:10: *10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

PRQ3. What kind of sentence is needed and why is character so important?

Wednesday, July 19

4. HOPE FOR SINNERS

a. What promise is given, showing there is hope for sinners? Isaiah 43:25.

Isaiah 43:25: *25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

“Jesus is in His holy temple and will now accept our sacrifices, our prayers, and our confessions of faults and sins and will pardon all the transgressions of Israel, that they may be blotted out before He leaves the sanctuary. When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy will be unjust and filthy still; for then there will be no Priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father’s throne. Therefore what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath must be done before Jesus leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary.” —Early Writings, p. 48.

Wednesday, July 19

4. HOPE FOR SINNERS

b. Comparing the ceremonial law with the ministry of Christ, how do we see that actual cleansing is possible? Hebrews 10:1, 2; Revelation 19:8.

Hebrews 10:1-2: *1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.*

Revelation 19:8: *8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

“The palm branch in their hands is a symbol of their triumph, the white robe an emblem of the spotless righteousness of Christ which now is theirs.” — The Great Controversy, p. 665.

“In the typical service the high priest, having made the atonement for Israel, came forth and blessed the congregation. So Christ, at the close of His work as mediator, will appear, ‘without sin unto salvation’ (Hebrews 9:28), to bless His waiting people with eternal life. As the priest, in removing the sins from the sanctuary, confessed them upon the head of the scapegoat, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, the originator and instigator of sin. . . . Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate, without inhabitant, and he will at last suffer the full penalty of sin in the fires that shall destroy all the wicked. Thus the great plan of redemption will reach its accomplishment in the final eradication of sin and the deliverance of all who have been willing to renounce evil.” — Ibid., p. 485.

“Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. In the typical service, when the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this antitypical day of atonement, when Christ in the sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of His people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?” — Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 125.

PRQ4. As sinners, what is our only hope and how can this be achieved?

Thursday, July 20

5. FORGETTING SIN

a. What needs to occur in order for sins to be blotted out? Acts 3:19.

Acts 3:19: *19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*

“All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life.” — The Great Controversy, p. 483.

“Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.” — Early Writings, p. 280.

“Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.” — The Great Controversy, p. 620.

PRQ5. *What parable clearly shows the difference between forgiveness and blotting out of sins?*

Thursday, July 20

5. FORGETTING SIN

b. What parable did Jesus use to show that forgiveness is not the same as blotting out or forgetting? Matthew 18:23–35.

Matthew 18:23–35: *23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

PRQ5. What parable clearly shows the difference between forgiveness and blotting out of sins?

Friday, July 21

Personal Review Questions

- 1. Who and what is to be judged in the pre-Advent judgment?**
- 2. With what are the 24 elders involved with and what prepared them?**
- 3. What kind of sentence is needed and why is character so important?**
- 4. As sinners, what is our only hope and how can this be achieved?**
- 5. What parable clearly shows the difference between forgiveness and blotting out of sins?**

Lesson 5 - Sabbath, July 29, 2023

The Blotting Out of Sins

MEMORY TEXT: “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

“The intercession of Christ in man’s behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross.” — The Great Controversy, p. 489.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 423-432.

Sunday, July 23

1. THE TIME OF BLOTTING OUT OF SINS

a. In relationship to the time of the apostles, when is the blotting out of sins to take place? Acts 3:19, 20.

Acts 3:19-20: 19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

“The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the Lord. Since the dead are to be judged out of the things written in the books, it is impossible that the sins of men should be blotted out until after the judgment at which their cases are to be investigated.”—
The Great Controversy, p. 485.

PRQ1. How do we know that the time for the blotting out of sins must take place prior to the second coming of Jesus?

Sunday, July 23

1. THE TIME OF BLOTTING OUT OF SINS

b. What is happening on earth in preparation for the second coming while our sins are being blotted out of the books of heaven? Ephesians 5:25–27; 1 John 3:2, 3.

Ephesians 5:25–27: *25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

1 John 3:2-3: *2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth.” — Ibid., p. 425.

PRQ1. How do we know that the time for the blotting out of sins must take place prior to the second coming of Jesus?

Monday, July 24

2. THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

a. How does Daniel describe the judgment scene? Daniel 7:9, 10.

Daniel 7:9-10: *9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.*

“[Daniel 7:9, 10 quoted.] Thus was presented to the prophet’s vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered ‘according to his works.’ The Ancient of Days is God the Father. . . . It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to preside in the judgment. And holy angels as ministers and witnesses, in number ‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,’ attend this great tribunal.” —The Great Controversy, p. 479.

PRQ2. How do we know that the coming of Christ in Daniel 7 is in the most holy place in the temple in heaven rather than to this earth?

Monday, July 24

2. THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

b. Who joins in this judgment? Daniel 7:13, 14; Hebrews 9:24.

Daniel 7:13-14: *13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

Hebrews 9:24: *24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

“The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man—to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.”—Ibid.

“[The righteous dead] will not be present in person at the tribunal when their records are examined and their cases decided.

“Jesus will appear as their advocate, to plead in their behalf before God.”—Ibid., p. 482.

PRQ2. *How do we know that the coming of Christ in Daniel 7 is in the most holy place in the temple in heaven rather than to this earth?*

Monday, July 24

2. THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

c. How do we know that this coming of Christ is somewhere in heaven rather than to this earth? Psalm 11:4.

Psalm 11:4: *4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORDS throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

“From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above, united with the church below, is warring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ’s cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven. There we shall see more clearly as we are seen. We shall know as we are known.” —The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 27.

PRQ2. How do we know that the coming of Christ in Daniel 7 is in the most holy place in the temple in heaven rather than to this earth?

Tuesday, July 25

3. Prior to the Coming of Christ

a. Does the marriage of Christ to His kingdom take place before or after His return to earth? What symbolism is used to represent the church? Revelation 21:2; Luke 12:35, 36; Revelation 19:9.

Revelation 21:2: *2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Luke 12:35-36: *35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*

Revelation 19:9: *9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

“The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called ‘the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ Said the angel to John: ‘Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ‘He carried me away in the spirit,’ says the prophet, ‘and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.’ Revelation 21:9, 10. Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride. Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, ‘dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;’ He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.’ Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to ‘sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,’ at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 426, 427.

PRQ3. Explain how the marriage symbolizes Christ accepting His kingdom rather than a marriage to His church.

Tuesday, July 25

3. Prior to the Coming of Christ

b. In what role does Jesus come the second time? Revelation 17:14; 19:16.

Revelation 17:14: *14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

Revelation 19:16: *16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

“Jesus rides forth as a mighty conqueror. Not now a ‘Man of Sorrows,’ to drink the bitter cup of shame and woe, He comes, victor in heaven and earth, to judge the living and the dead. ‘Faithful and True,’ ‘in righteousness He doth judge and make war.’ And ‘the armies which were in heaven’ (Revelation 19:11, 14) follow Him. With anthems of celestial melody the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng, attend Him on His way. The firmament seems filled with radiant forms—‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.’ No human pen can portray the scene; no mortal mind is adequate to conceive its splendor. . . . As the living cloud comes still nearer, every eye beholds the Prince of life. No crown of thorns now mars that sacred head; but a diadem of glory rests on His holy brow. His countenance outshines the dazzling brightness of the noonday sun. ‘And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.’ ”—*Ibid.*, p. 641.

PRQ3. Explain how the marriage symbolizes Christ accepting His kingdom rather than a marriage to His church.

Wednesday, July 26

4. THE REWARD DETERMINED

a. When is the reward for the saints determined and when is it actually given? Revelation 11:18; 22:12; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8.

Revelation 11:18: *18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

Revelation 22:12: *12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

2 Timothy 4:7-8: *7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

“By the king’s examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, ‘to give every man according as his work shall be.’ Revelation 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man’s work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ’s followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.” — Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 310.

PRQ4. *How only can one be judged fairly, thus showing the need to have the most holy place revealed before the judgment?*

Wednesday, July 26

4. THE REWARD DETERMINED

b. Since people are judged by the law, what needed to be revealed prior to the commencement of the judgment? Revelation 11:19; Acts 17:30; James 4:17.

Revelation 11:19: *19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

Acts 17:30: *30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*

James 4:17: *17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

“Said the angel: ‘If light come, and that light is set aside or rejected, then comes condemnation and the frown of God; but before the light comes, there is no sin, for there is no light for them to reject.’ ”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 116.

PRQ4. How only can one be judged fairly, thus showing the need to have the most holy place revealed before the judgment?

Wednesday, July 26

4. THE REWARD DETERMINED

c. What is inside the ark of the covenant and how do we learn about the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 9:4; 8:5.

Hebrews 9:4: *4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aarons rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

Hebrews 8:5: *5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

“In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, and as the saints’ prayers came up to Him, the incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father. In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the ten commandments written on them with the finger of God.”—Early Writings, p. 32.

PRQ4. How only can one be judged fairly, thus showing the need to have the most holy place revealed before the judgment?

Thursday, July 27

5. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

a. Describe the day of atonement in the Levitical system and explain how the blotting out of sins was symbolized in it. Leviticus 16:29, 30; 23:27, 30.

Leviticus 16:29-30: *29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: 30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.*

Leviticus 23:27: *27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

Leviticus 23:30: *30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.*

“The actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works. Revelation 22:12.”—The Great Controversy, pp. 421, 422.

PRQ5. What event in the Old Testament typified the blotting out of sins?

Thursday, July 27

5. THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

b. How should knowing this reality affect our daily choice? 2 Corinthians 6:2.

2 Corinthians 6:2: 2 (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)

“Those who are quieting a guilty conscience with the thought that they can change a course of evil when they choose, that they can trifle with the invitations of mercy, and yet be again and again impressed, take this course at their peril. They think that after casting all their influence on the side of the great rebel, in a moment of utmost extremity, when danger compasses them about, they will change leaders. But this is not so easily done. The experience, the education, the discipline of a life of sinful indulgence, has so thoroughly molded the character that they cannot then receive the image of Jesus. Had no light shone upon their pathway, the case would have been different. Mercy might interpose, and give them an opportunity to accept her overtures; but after light has been long rejected and despised, it will be finally withdrawn.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 269.

PRQ5. What event in the Old Testament typified the blotting out of sins?

Friday, July 28

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. How do we know that the time for the blotting out of sins must take place prior to the second coming of Jesus?**
- 2. How do we know that the coming of Christ in Daniel 7 is in the most holy place in the temple in heaven rather than to this earth?**
- 3. Explain how the marriage symbolizes Christ accepting His kingdom rather than a marriage to His church.**
- 4. How only can one be judged fairly, thus showing the need to have the most holy place revealed before the judgment?**
- 5. What event in the Old Testament typified the blotting out of sins?**

August - First Sabbath Offering for the GC Education Department

Now, more than ever, there is a need to invest in the education of our children. Bombarded as these young ones are from every corner by the things of this world, it is increasingly difficult to protect them from the wiles of the enemy. What was once limited in its accessibility is now literally attached to our children through “smart” phones and other devices. How can we be fitted for the work of evangelism when our own children cannot be prepared for it?

“True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education.” —The Ministry of Healing, p. 395.

Increasingly, educational institutions have moved away from teaching fundamentals to becoming indoctrination centers for worldliness and worse. Many concerned parents have realized just how much influence schooling has on their children and have reached out, asking how they can have materials to assist them in educating their children for the honor and glory of God. Therefore, the General Conference Education Department is in the process of creating an entire curriculum with this very aim as its focus. Partnering with our educators and with the contribution of the various unions and field conferences, the work of preparing a Kindergarten–12th grade curriculum is well underway.

At the same time, this project is larger than the sums available. We need your generous contributions to this offering to do three things: Prepare the materials by capable individuals, translate the materials, and make them available even to those in places of poverty.

Your support makes it possible for us to prepare materials of the highest caliber so the students using them in our church schools and home schools will be “qualified for usefulness in this life and for the service of God throughout eternity.” —Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p. 495.

We understand this project is large, but it is well worth it. And we know that with your generous support we will produce materials from math to language to social sciences that will equip the youngest among us to give the gospel message to all the world.

Thank you in advance, and may God bless the gifts and givers.

General Conference Education Department

Lesson 6 - Sabbath, August 5, 2023

The Heavenly Ministry Overshadowed

MEMORY TEXT: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

“The intercession of Christ in our behalf is that of presenting His divine merits in the offering of Himself to the Father as our substitute and surety; for He ascended up on high to make an atonement for our transgressions.” —Faith and Works, p. 105.

Suggested Reading: *Faith and Works*, pp. 105-108.

Sunday, July 30

1. Messages Through the Prophets

a. How does God reveal His will to mankind and what message is especially designed for the last days? Numbers 12:6; Daniel 8:1, 2.

Numbers 12:6: *6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.*

Daniel 8:1-2: *1 In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. 2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.*

“Read the book of Daniel. Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men, and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler, and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read, and understand how poor, how frail, how short-lived, how erring, how guilty is man in lifting up his soul unto vanity.”—The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1166.

“Ministers and people declared that the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation were incomprehensible mysteries. But Christ directed His disciples to the words of the prophet Daniel concerning events to take place in their time, and said: ‘Whoso readeth, let him understand.’ Matthew 24:15. And the assertion that the Revelation is a mystery, not to be understood, is contradicted by the very title of the book: ‘The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass. . . . Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.’ ”—The Great Controversy, p. 341.

PRQ1. How can we identify true prophets with a message from God?

Monday, July 31

2. THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT

a. What does the ram symbolize and how was that prophecy fulfilled? Daniel 8:3, 4, 20; Esther 1:1.

Daniel 8:3-4: *3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.*

Daniel 8:20: *20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.*

Esther 1:1: *1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:)*

“While the nations rejected God’s principles, and in this rejection wrought their own ruin, it was still manifest that the divine, overruling purpose was working through all their movements. . . .

“Every nation that has come upon the stage of action has been permitted to occupy its place on the earth, that it might be seen whether it would fulfill the purpose of ‘the Watcher and the Holy One.’ Prophecy has traced the rise and fall of the world’s great empires—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. With each of these, as with nations of less power, history repeated itself. Each had its period of test, each failed, its glory faded, its power departed, and its place was occupied by another.”—Education, pp. 176, 177.

PRQ2. Describe the meaning of the ram and he-goat.

Monday, July 31

2. THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT

**b. What does the very great he-goat symbolize and how was that fulfilled?
Daniel 8:5–8, 21, 22.**

Daniel 8:5–8: *5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. 6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. 7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. 8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven.*

Daniel 8:21-22: *21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.*

“Alexander found it much easier to subdue kingdoms than to rule his own spirit. After conquering nations, this so-called great man fell through the indulgence of appetite—a victim of intemperance.”—Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 29.

PRQ2. Describe the meaning of the ram and he-goat.

Monday, July 31

2. THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT

c. Although the Bible relates with unerring accuracy the history of the world's empires, what words of Christ should we ever keep in mind? John 18:36.

John 18:36: *36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

“It is acquaintance that awakens sympathy, and sympathy is the spring of effective ministry. To awaken in the children and youth sympathy and the spirit of sacrifice for the suffering millions in the ‘regions beyond,’ let them become acquainted with these lands and their peoples. In this line much might be accomplished in our schools. Instead of dwelling on the exploits of the Alexanders and Napoleons of history, let the pupils study the lives of such men as the apostle Paul and Martin Luther, as Moffat and Livingstone and Carey, and the present daily-unfolding history of missionary effort. Instead of burdening their memories with an array of names and theories that have no bearing upon their lives, and to which, once outside the schoolroom, they rarely give a thought, let them study all lands in the light of missionary effort and become acquainted with the peoples and their needs.” — Education, p. 269.

PRQ2. Describe the meaning of the ram and he-goat.

Tuesday, August 1

3. THE MIGHTY LITTLE HORN

a. What does the mighty little horn represent and how was that fulfilled?

Daniel 8:9–12.

Daniel 8:9–12: *9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. 11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.*

“The crown removed from Israel passed successively to the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. God says, ‘It shall be no more, until He come whose right it is; and I will give it Him.’ ”—Education, p. 179.

“Alexander and Caesar found it easier to subdue a world than to subdue themselves.”—Child Guidance, p. 96.

PRQ3. Distinguish between great, very great, and exceeding great in this prophecy.

Tuesday, August 1

3. THE MIGHTY LITTLE HORN

b. How are the words “great,” “very great,” and “exceeding great” used to illustrate the vast comparisons of each of the kingdoms? Daniel 8:4, 8, 9. What is the meaning of standing up against the host of heaven and the stars? Daniel 8:10; Genesis 37:9–11.

Daniel 8:4: *4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.*

Daniel 8:8-10: *8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. 10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.*

Genesis 37:9–11: *9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.*

Note on next page...

“ ‘These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand.’ Revelation 2:1. These words are spoken to the teachers in the church—those entrusted by God with weighty responsibilities. The sweet influences that are to be abundant in the church are bound up with God’s ministers, who are to reveal the love of Christ. The stars of heaven are under His control. He fills them with light. He guides and directs their movements. If He did not do this, they would become fallen stars. So with His ministers. They are but instruments in His hands, and all the good they accomplish is done through His power. Through them His light is to shine forth. The Saviour is to be their efficiency. If they will look to Him as He looked to the Father they will be enabled to do His work. As they make God their dependence, He will give them His brightness to reflect to the world.” —The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 586, 587.

“John calls to remembrance the wonderful incidents that he has witnessed in the life of Christ. In imagination he again enjoys the precious opportunities with which he was once favored, and is greatly comforted. Suddenly his meditation is broken in upon; he is addressed in tones distinct and clear. He turns to see from whence the voice proceeds, and, lo! he beholds his Lord, whom he has loved, with whom he has walked and talked, and whose sufferings upon the cross he has witnessed. But how changed is the Saviour’s appearance! He is no longer ‘a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief’ (Isaiah 53:3). He bears no marks of His humiliation. His eyes are like a flame of fire; His feet like fine brass, as it glows in a furnace. The tones of His voice are like the musical sound of many waters. His countenance shines like the sun in its meridian glory. In His hand are seven stars, representing the ministers of the churches.” —The Sanctified Life, pp. 77, 78.

PRQ3. Distinguish between great, very great, and exceeding great in this prophecy.

Wednesday, August 2

4. AN IMPOSTER AS PRIEST

a. Who is the prince of the host and how did the little horn magnify itself against Him? Daniel 8:11, 25; Revelation 19:16; 17:14.

Daniel 8:11: *11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.*

Daniel 8:25: *25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*

Revelation 19:16: *16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Revelation 17:14: *14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Revelation 12:9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.” — The Great Controversy, p. 438.

PRQ4. What earthly power sought to usurp Christ's work in the sanctuary above?

Wednesday, August 2

4. AN IMPOSTER AS PRIEST

b. Since Christ did not complete the final work of atonement on the cross (Romans 5:8–11), what work did Jesus continue as an atonement in the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 3:1; 8:1, 2; 9:8, 9, 21–26.

Romans 5:8–11: *8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Hebrews 3:1: *1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

Hebrews 8:1-2: *1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

Hebrews 9:8-9: *8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;*

Hebrews 9:21–26: *21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

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24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

“Our great High Priest completed the sacrificial offering of Himself when He suffered without the gate. Then a perfect atonement was made for the sins of the people. Jesus is our Advocate, our High Priest, our Intercessor.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 913.

PRQ4. What earthly power sought to usurp Christ's work in the sanctuary above?

Wednesday, August 2

4. AN IMPOSTER AS PRIEST

c. After the fall of imperial Rome, how did the papacy transfer the intercessory ministrations of the heavenly sanctuary to its own institutions on earth? 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4; 1 Timothy 2:5.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: *3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

1 Timothy 2:5: *5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

“The incense that is offered now by men, the masses that are said for the deliverance of souls from purgatory, are not of the least avail with God. All the altars and sacrifices, the traditions and inventions whereby men hope to earn salvation are fallacies. No sacrifices are to be offered without; for the great High Priest is performing His work in the holy place. . . .

“In His intercession as our Advocate Christ needs no man’s virtue, no man’s intercession. Christ is the only sin bearer, the only sin-offering. Prayer and confession are to be offered only to Him who has entered once for all into the holy place. . . .

“The so-called intercession of the saints is the greatest falsehood that can be invented. Priests and rulers have no right to interpose between Christ and the souls for whom He has died, as though invested with the Saviour’s attributes, and able to pardon transgression and sin. They themselves are sinners.” —Ibid.

PRQ4. What earthly power sought to usurp Christ’s work in the sanctuary above?

Thursday, August 3

5. The Heavenly Sanctuary Cleansed

a. How does Daniel's prophecy foretell that the daily ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary was to be hidden and marred? Daniel 8:11, 12.

Daniel 8:11-12: *11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.*

Thursday, August 3

5. The Heavenly Sanctuary Cleansed

b. How long was this revolt—the same revolting spirit that attempted to become equal to God originally in heaven (Isaiah 14:12–14)—to continue and overshadow the atoning ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 8:13, 14.

Isaiah 14:12–14: *12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

Daniel 8:13-14: *13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? 14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

“Lucifer in heaven desired to be first in power and authority; he wanted to be God, to have the rulership of heaven; and to this end he won many of the angels to his side. When with his rebel host he was cast out from the courts of God, the work of rebellion and self-seeking was continued on earth.” —Reflecting Christ, p. 51.

“The Saviour gathered His disciples about Him, and said to them, ‘If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.’ . . . The strife for the highest place was the outworking of that same spirit which was the beginning of the great controversy in the worlds above, and which had brought Christ from heaven to die. . . . Had Lucifer really desired to be like the Most High, he would never have deserted his appointed place in heaven; for the spirit of the Most High is manifested in unselfish ministry. Lucifer desired God’s power, but not His character. He sought for himself the highest place, and every being who is actuated by his spirit will do the same. Thus alienation, discord, and strife will be inevitable. Dominion becomes the prize of the strongest. The kingdom of Satan is a kingdom of force; every individual regards every other as an obstacle in the way of his own advancement, or a steppingstone on which he himself may climb to a higher place.” —The Desire of Ages, pp. 435, 436.

PRQ5. What was to occur at the termination of the 2300 days?

Thursday, August 3

5. The Heavenly Sanctuary Cleansed

c. What will we understand when we know the end of the 2300 days? Isaiah 43:25; Revelation 14:6, 7.

Isaiah 43:25: *25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

Revelation 14:6-7: *6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

PRQ5. *What was to occur at the termination of the 2300 days?*

Friday, August 4

Personal Review Questions

- 1. How can we identify true prophets with a message from God?**
- 2. Describe the meaning of the ram and he-goat.**
- 3. Distinguish between great, very great, and exceeding great in this prophecy.**
- 4. What earthly power sought to usurp Christ's work in the sanctuary above?**
- 5. What was to occur at the termination of the 2300 days?**

Lesson 7 - Sabbath, August 12, 2023

“Then Shall the Sanctuary Be Cleansed”

MEMORY TEXT: “And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14).

“Through the suffering and death of the Son of man, the salvation of man was made possible. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit God designs that His image shall be restored in humanity, that a new and living principle of life shall be introduced into the minds that have become defiled by sin. . . . The cross of Christ must be studied. It must rivet the attention and hold the affections. The blood which there was shed for sins will purify and cleanse mind and heart from every species of selfishness.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, pp. 377, 378.

Suggested Reading: *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 681-702.

Sunday, August 6

1. IN PRAYER WITH FASTING

a. Show how Daniel, a highly honored prophet of God, did not consider himself beyond the need of studying the writings of other prophets. Daniel 9:2; Jeremiah 29:10.

Daniel 9:2: *2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.*

Jeremiah 29:10: *10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.*

“Burdened in behalf of Israel, Daniel studied anew the prophecies of Jeremiah.” — Prophets and Kings, p. 554.

PRQ1. What self-denial should we be willing to exercise in order to understand the important prophecies for our time?

Sunday, August 6

1. IN PRAYER WITH FASTING

b. What must we be willing to do in order to understand the writings of God's appointed messengers? Daniel 8:27; 9:3; 10:1–3.

Daniel 8:27: *27 And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the kings business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.*

Daniel 9:3: *3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:*

Daniel 10:1–3: *1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. 2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

“This test would reveal the strength of those who with real faith had obeyed what they believed to be the teaching of the word and the Spirit of God. It would teach them, as only such an experience could, the danger of accepting the theories and interpretations of men, instead of making the Bible its own interpreter. To the children of faith the perplexity and sorrow resulting from their error would work the needed correction. They would be led to a closer study of the prophetic word. They would be taught to examine more carefully the foundation of their faith, and to reject everything, however widely accepted by the Christian world, that was not founded upon the Scriptures of truth.” — The Great Controversy, p. 354.

PRQ1. What self-denial should we be willing to exercise in order to understand the important prophecies for our time?

Monday, August 7

2. TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DAYS

a. What showed that the angel Gabriel came to enlighten Daniel concerning an explanation of a vision previously given that the prophet had not understood? Daniel 9:20–23, 26, 27.

Daniel 9:20–23: *20 And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; 21 Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.*

Daniel 9:26-27: *26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

“Through another vision further light was thrown upon the events of the future; and it was at the close of this vision that Daniel heard ‘one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision?’ Daniel 8:13. The answer that was given, ‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed’ (verse 14), filled him with perplexity. Earnestly he sought for the meaning of the vision. He could not understand the relation sustained by the seventy years’ captivity, as foretold through Jeremiah, to the twenty-three hundred years that in vision he heard the heavenly visitant declare should elapse before the cleansing of God’s sanctuary. The angel Gabriel gave him a partial interpretation; yet when the prophet heard the words, ‘The vision . . . shall be for many days,’ he fainted away.” —Prophets and Kings, p. 554.

“It was Gabriel, the angel next in rank to the Son of God, who came with the divine message to Daniel.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 234.

PRQ2. How do we know that the prophecies of Daniel 9 are clearly connected to Daniel chapter 8 and especially the explanation of verse 14?

Monday, August 7

2. TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DAYS

b. What command previously given to the prophet was yet incomplete and with what did the unfinished explanation concern? Daniel 8:16, 14.

Daniel 8:16: *16 And I heard a mans voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.*

Daniel 8:14: *14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

“The angel had been sent to Daniel for the express purpose of explaining to him the point which he had failed to understand in the vision of the eighth chapter, the statement relative to time—‘unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ ”—The Great Controversy, p. 326.

“As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John. This subject sheds great light on our present position and work, and gives us unmistakable proof that God has led us in our past experience. It explains our disappointment in 1844, showing us that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth, as we had supposed, but that Christ then entered into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and is there performing the closing work of His priestly office, in fulfillment of the words of the angel to the prophet Daniel, ‘Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ ”—Evangelism, pp. 222, 223.

PRQ2. How do we know that the prophecies of Daniel 9 are clearly connected to Daniel chapter 8 and especially the explanation of verse 14?

Tuesday, August 8

3. The Day-for-a-Year Principle

a. How are we to understand a prophetic day? Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:33, 34.

Ezekiel 4:6: *6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.*

Numbers 14:33-34: *33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. 34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

“A day in prophecy stands for a year. See Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6.”—Prophets and Kings, p. 698.

PRQ3. When studying prophecies, what do we need to realize about time periods?

Tuesday, August 8

3. The Day-for-a-Year Principle

b. How do we know that the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 are a part of the 2300 days of Daniel 8, aside of the reason given in the questions above and what was to be accomplished during this time period? Daniel 9:24–27.

Daniel 9:24–27: *24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

“After bidding Daniel ‘understand the matter, and consider the vision,’ the very first words of the angel are: ‘Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy Holy City.’ The word here translated ‘determined’ literally signifies ‘cut off.’ Seventy weeks, representing 490 years, are declared by the angel to be cut off, as specially pertaining to the Jews. But from what were they cut off? As the 2300 days was the only period of time mentioned in chapter 8, it must be the period from which the seventy weeks were cut off; the seventy weeks must therefore be a part of the 2300 days, and the two periods must begin together. The seventy weeks were declared by the angel to date from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem. If the date of this commandment could be found, then the starting point for the great period of the 2300 days would be ascertained.” — The Great Controversy, p. 326.

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“The plan of salvation had its place in the counsels of the Infinite from all eternity. The gospel is the revelation of God’s love to men, and means everything that is essential to the happiness and well-being of humanity. The work of God in the earth is of immeasurable importance, and it is Satan’s special object to crowd it out of sight and mind, that he may make his specious devices effectual in the destruction of those for whom Christ died. It is his purpose to cause the discoveries of men to be exalted above the wisdom of God. When the mind is engrossed with the conceptions and theories of men to the exclusion of the wisdom of God, it is stamped with idolatry. Science, falsely so called, has been exalted above God, nature above its Maker, and how can God look upon such wisdom?” —Fundamentals of Christian Education, p. 186.

PRQ3. When studying prophecies, what do we need to realize about time periods?

Wednesday, August 9

4. Explanation of Terms

a. How was the phrase “make an end of sin,” or “sin offerings” as the original implies, fulfilled? Hebrews 9:24–26; 7:26, 27.

Hebrews 9:24–26: *24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

Hebrews 7:26-27: *26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the peoples: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

“Then, said the angel, ‘He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [seven years].’ For seven years after the Saviour entered on His ministry, the gospel was to be preached especially to the Jews; for three and a half years by Christ Himself, and afterward by the apostles. ‘In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.’ Daniel 9:27. In the spring of a.d. 31, Christ, the true Sacrifice, was offered on Calvary. Then the veil of the temple was rent in twain, showing that the sacredness and significance of the sacrificial service had departed.” — Prophets and Kings, p. 699.

“With the great sacrifice offered upon Calvary, ended that system of offerings which for four thousand years had pointed forward to the Lamb of God. Type had met antitype, and all the sacrifices and oblations of the ceremonial system were there to cease.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 327, 328.

PRQ4. Explain some things to be fulfilled during the 70-week period of time.

Wednesday, August 9

4. Explanation of Terms

b. How was reconciliation made for iniquity? 2 Corinthians 5:19, 20.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20: *19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christs stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

“Jesus paid an infinite price to redeem the world, and the race was given into His hands; they became His property. He sacrificed His honor, His riches, and His glorious home in the royal courts and became the son of Joseph and Mary. Joseph was one of the humblest of day laborers. Jesus also worked; he lived a life of hardship and toil. When His ministry commenced, after His baptism, He endured an agonizing fast of nearly six weeks. It was not merely the gnawing pangs of hunger which made His sufferings inexpressibly severe, but it was the guilt of the sins of the world which pressed so heavily upon Him. He who knew no sin was made sin for us. With this terrible weight of guilt upon Him because of our sins He withstood the fearful test upon appetite, and upon love of the world and of honor, and pride of display which leads to presumption. Christ endured these three great leading temptations and overcame in behalf of man, working out for him a righteous character, because He knew man could not do this of himself. He knew that upon these three points Satan was to assail the race. He had overcome Adam, and he designed to carry forward his work till he completed the ruin of man. Christ entered the field in man’s behalf to conquer Satan for him because He saw that man could not overcome on his own account. Christ prepared the way for the ransom of man by His own life of suffering, self-denial, and self-sacrifice, and by His humiliation and final death. He brought help to man that he might, by following Christ’s example, overcome on his own account, as Christ has overcome for him.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 372.

PRQ4. Explain some things to be fulfilled during the 70-week period of time.

Thursday, August 10

5. THE HEAVENLY MINISTRATION BEGUN

a. How was everlasting righteousness assured? Nahum 1:9.

Nahum 1:9: *9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.*

“The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonor to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honor before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: ‘Affliction shall not rise up the second time.’ Nahum 1:9. The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honored as the law of liberty.”—The Great Controversy, p. 504.

“Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God ‘was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.’ Sin is defined to be ‘the transgression of the law.’ 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, ‘I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.’ Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, ‘I have kept My Father’s commandments.’ John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 311, 312.

PRQ5. *What had to occur before Jesus could begin His heavenly ministration?*

Thursday, August 10

5. THE HEAVENLY MINISTRATION BEGUN

b. Before the earthly sanctuary could begin its ministry, the tabernacle had to be anointed (Exodus 40:9). What did Jesus need to undergo before the 70 weeks were finished in order to begin the ministration of the heavenly sanctuary? Daniel 9:24; Matthew 3:13–17; John 19:28–30; Hebrews 8:1–5; 9:8, 9.

Exodus 40:9: *9 And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.*

Daniel 9:24: *24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

Matthew 3:13–17: *13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

John 19:28–30: *28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

Verses continued on next page...

Hebrews 8:1–5: *1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

Hebrews 9:8-9: *8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;*

PRQ5. *What had to occur before Jesus could begin His heavenly ministration?*

Friday, August 11

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What self-denial should we be willing to exercise in order to understand the important prophecies for our time?**
- 2. How do we know that the prophecies of Daniel 9 are clearly connected to Daniel chapter 8 and especially the explanation of verse 14?**
- 3. When studying prophecies, what do we need to realize about time periods?**
- 4. Explain some things to be fulfilled during the 70-week period of time.**
- 5. What had to occur before Jesus could begin His heavenly ministration?**

Lesson 8 - Sabbath, August 19, 2023

The Ultimate Sacrifice

MEMORY TEXT: “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times” (Daniel 9:25).

“The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was not to cancel the sin; it would stand on record in the sanctuary until the final atonement; so in the type the blood of the sin offering removed the sin from the penitent, but it rested in the sanctuary until the Day of Atonement.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 357.

Suggested Reading: *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 607-627.

Sunday, August 13

1. The Beginning of the Prophecy

a. When does the entire 70-week prophecy begin? Daniel 9:25.

Daniel 9:25: *25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

PRQ1. *Why does the year 457 b.c. mark the beginning of the 70 weeks?*

Sunday, August 13

1. The Beginning of the Prophecy

b. What other decrees were made that did not fulfill the conditions of the prophecy? Ezra 1:1–4; 6:1–12; Nehemiah 2:1–8.

Ezra 1:1–4: *1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, 2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem. 4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the freewill offering for the house of God that is in Jerusalem.*

Ezra 6:1–12: *1 Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. 2 And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; 4 With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expences be given out of the kings house: 5 And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God. 6 Now therefore, Tatnai, governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:*

Verses continued next page...

7 Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place. 8 Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house of God: that of the kings goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forthwith expences be given unto these men, that they be not hindered. 9 And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail: 10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons. 11 Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let him be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this. 12 And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

Nehemiah 2:1–8: 1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. 2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, 3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? 4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers sepulchres, that I may build it. 6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. 7 Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; 8 And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the kings forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.

PRQ1. Why does the year 457 b.c. mark the beginning of the 70 weeks?

Sunday, August 13

1. The Beginning of the Prophecy

c. Which is the only decree that fulfills the condition to restore the entire system of Judaea—including the religious and judicial authority, plus financing? Ezra 7:11–26.

Ezra 7:11–26: *11 Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel. 12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. 13 I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. 14 Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand; 15 And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, 16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem: 17 That thou mayest buy speedily with this money bullocks, rams, lambs, with their meat offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them upon the altar of the house of your God which is in Jerusalem. 18 And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God. 19 The vessels also that are given thee for the service of the house of thy God, those deliver thou before the God of Jerusalem. 20 And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the kings treasure house. 21 And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily, 22 Unto an hundred talents of silver, and to an hundred measures of wheat, and to an hundred baths of wine, and to an hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much. 23 Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?*

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24 Also we certify you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, singers, porters, Nethinims, or ministers of this house of God, it shall not be lawful to impose toll, tribute, or custom, upon them. 25 And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and teach ye them that know them not. 26 And whosoever will not do the law of thy God, and the law of the king, let judgment be executed speedily upon him, whether it be unto death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.

“In the seventh chapter of Ezra the decree is found. Verses 12–26. In its completest form it was issued by Artaxerxes, king of Persia, 457 b.c. But in Ezra 6:14 the house of the Lord at Jerusalem is said to have been built ‘according to the commandment [‘decree,’ margin] of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.’ These three kings, in originating, reaffirming, and completing the decree, brought it to the perfection required by the prophecy to mark the beginning of the 2300 years. Taking 457 b.c., the time when the decree was completed, as the date of the commandment, every specification of the prophecy concerning the seventy weeks was seen to have been fulfilled.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 326, 327.

PRQ1. Why does the year 457 b.c. mark the beginning of the 70 weeks?

Monday, August 14

2. The Messiah Revealed

a. When did the Messiah reveal Himself, showing that the 70th week had begun—and how old was Jesus when this timeline began? John 1:29, 41; Matthew 3:16, 17; Acts 10:38; Luke 3:23.

John 1:29: *29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

John 1:41: *41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*

Matthew 3:16-17: *16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Acts 10:38: *38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

Luke 3:23: *23 And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,*

“ ‘From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks’ — namely, sixty-nine weeks, or 483 years. The decree of Artaxerxes went into effect in the autumn of 457 b.c. From this date, 483 years extend to the autumn of a.d. 27. . . . At that time this prophecy was fulfilled. The word ‘Messiah’ signifies ‘the Anointed One.’ In the autumn of a.d. 27 Christ was baptized by John and received the anointing of the Spirit. The apostle Peter testifies that ‘God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power.’ Acts 10:38. . . . After His baptism He went into Galilee, ‘preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled.’ Mark 1:14, 15.” — The Great Controversy, p. 327.

PRQ2. How do we know that Christ’s baptism marked the start of the 70th week?

Monday, August 14

2. The Messiah Revealed

b. How did Jesus reveal this prophecy as a key aspect of His ministry (Daniel 8 and 9) and of the everlasting gospel? Mark 1:14, 15; Hebrews 4:15, 16.

Mark 1:14-15: *14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Hebrews 4:15-16: *15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

“Christ Himself had sent [the disciples] forth with the message: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.’ Mark 1:15. That message was based on the prophecy of Daniel 9.”—Ibid., p. 345. “At the expiration of ‘the time’—the sixty-nine weeks of Daniel 9, which were to extend to the Messiah, ‘the Anointed One’—Christ had received the anointing of the Spirit after His baptism by John in Jordan. And the ‘kingdom of God’ which they had declared to be at hand was established by the death of Christ. This kingdom was not, as they had been taught to believe, an earthly empire. Nor was it that future, immortal kingdom which shall be set up when ‘the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;’ that everlasting kingdom, in which ‘all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’ Daniel 7:27. As used in the Bible, the expression ‘kingdom of God’ is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. . . . The throne of grace represents the kingdom of grace; for the existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom. In many of His parables Christ uses the expression ‘the kingdom of heaven’ to designate the work of divine grace upon the hearts of men.”—Ibid., p. 347.

PRQ2. How do we know that Christ’s baptism marked the start of the 70th week?

Tuesday, August 15

3. The Fulfillment of Prophecy

a. With what was Jesus concerned throughout His ministry and what occurred exactly at the appointed time? John 7:6–8; 19:16–18, 28–30; 20:30, 31.

John 7:6–8: *6 Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. 7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. 8 Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come.*

John 19:16–18: *16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.*

John 19:28–30: *28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

John 20:30–31: *30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

“The time of the first advent and of some of the chief events clustering about the Saviour’s lifework was made known by the angel Gabriel to Daniel. ‘Seventy weeks,’ said the angel, ‘are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.’ Daniel 9:24.” —Prophets and Kings, p. 698.

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“Christ had come at the exact time and in the manner foretold by prophecy. The testimony of Scripture had been fulfilled in every detail of His ministry. He had preached the message of salvation, and ‘His word was with power.’ The hearts of His hearers had witnessed that it was of Heaven. The word and the Spirit of God attested the divine commission of His Son.” —The Great Controversy, p. 346.

PRQ3. How do the events of the 70th week determine the end of the 2300 days?

Tuesday, August 15

3. The Fulfillment of Prophecy

b. How does this prophecy likewise reveal the exact year of fulfillment for the rest of the 2300 days? Daniel 9:24.

Daniel 9:24: *24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

“The death of Christ—the very event which the disciples had looked upon as the final destruction of their hope—was that which made it forever sure. While it had brought them a cruel disappointment, it was the climax of proof that their belief had been correct. The event that had filled them with mourning and despair was that which opened the door of hope to every child of Adam, and in which centered the future life and eternal happiness of all God’s faithful ones in all the ages.”—Ibid., p. 348.

“Thus far every specification of the prophecies is strikingly fulfilled, and the beginning of the seventy weeks is fixed beyond question at 457 b.c., and their expiration in a.d. 34. From this data there is no difficulty in finding the termination of the 2300 days. The seventy weeks—490 days—having been cut off from the 2300, there were 1810 days remaining. After the end of 490 days, the 1810 days were still to be fulfilled. From a.d. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844. Consequently the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 terminate in 1844. At the expiration of this great prophetic period, upon the testimony of the angel of God, ‘the sanctuary shall be cleansed.’ Thus the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary—which was almost universally believed to take place at the second advent—was definitely pointed out.”—Ibid., p. 328.

PRQ3. How do the events of the 70th week determine the end of the 2300 days?

Wednesday, August 16

4. Rightful Entrance

a. What is needed in order to enter the Holy City? Revelation 21:27; 22:14.

Revelation 21:27: *27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lambs book of life.*

Revelation 22:14: *14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

“The death of Christ upon the cross made sure the destruction of him who has the power of death, who was the originator of sin. When Satan is destroyed, there will be none to tempt to evil; the atonement will never need to be repeated; and there will be no danger of another rebellion in the universe of God. That which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels. Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God. The plan of salvation, making manifest the justice and love of God, provides an eternal safeguard against defection in unfallen worlds, as well as among those who shall be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Our only hope is perfect trust in the blood of Him who can save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. The death of Christ on the cross of Calvary is our only hope in this world, and it will be our theme in the world to come. Oh, we do not comprehend the value of the atonement! If we did, we would talk more about it. The gift of God in His beloved Son was the expression of an incomprehensible love. It was the utmost that God could do to preserve the honor of His law, and still save the transgressor. Why should man not study the theme of redemption? ...

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It is the greatest subject that can engage the human mind. If men would contemplate the love of Christ, displayed in the cross, their faith would be strengthened to appropriate the merits of His shed blood, and they would be cleansed and saved from sin. There are many who will be lost, because they depend on legal religion, or mere repentance for sin. But repentance for sin alone cannot work the salvation of any soul. Man cannot be saved by his own works. Without Christ it is impossible for him to render perfect obedience to the law of God; and heaven can never be gained by an imperfect obedience; for this would place all heaven in jeopardy, and make possible a second rebellion.” —The Signs of the Times, December 30, 1889.

PRQ4. What type of character do we need to form to enter the New Jerusalem?

Wednesday, August 16

4. Rightful Entrance

b. What will be the condition of all who enter the Holy City? Ephesians 5:27; Isaiah 43:25.

Ephesians 5:27: *27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Isaiah 43:25: *25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.*

PRQ4. *What type of character do we need to form to enter the New Jerusalem?*

Thursday, August 17

5. The Investigative Judgment is Part of the Gospel

a. How is the message about the 2300 days and the investigative judgment a part of the gospel message to present to the world? Revelation 14:6, 7, 12.

Revelation 14:6-7: *6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

Revelation 14:12: *12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

“The work of judgment which began in 1844 must continue until the cases of all are decided, both of the living and the dead; hence it will extend to the close of human probation. That men may be prepared to stand in the judgment, the message commands them to ‘fear God, and give glory to Him,’ ‘and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’ . . . In order to be prepared for the judgment, it is necessary that men should keep the law of God. That law will be the standard of character in the judgment.” — The Great Controversy, pp. 435, 436.

PRQ5. Name an essential part of the everlasting gospel message to share today.

Thursday, August 17

5. The Investigative Judgment is Part of the Gospel

b. How does the beginning of the judgment in the autumn of 1844 show the fulfillment of the cleansing of the sanctuary? Daniel 8:14.

Daniel 8:14: *14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.*

“The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgment had come.” — Ibid., p. 356.

PRQ5. *Name an essential part of the everlasting gospel message to share today.*

Thursday, August 17

5. The Investigative Judgment is Part of the Gospel

c. What should we do in light of the solemnity of the times in which we live?

Mark 13:33; Revelation 3:3; 22:11.

Mark 13:33: *33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*

Revelation 3:3: *3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

Revelation 22:11: *11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review.

“When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death.”—Ibid., p. 490.

PRQ5. Name an essential part of the everlasting gospel message to share today.

Friday, August 18

Personal Review Questions

- 1. Why does the year 457 b.c. mark the beginning of the 70 weeks?**
- 2. How do we know that Christ's baptism marked the start of the 70th week?**
- 3. How do the events of the 70th week determine the end of the 2300 days?**
- 4. What type of character do we need to form to enter the New Jerusalem?**
- 5. Name an essential part of the everlasting gospel message to share today.**

Lesson 9 - Sabbath, August 26, 2023

The Duty of the Congregation

MEMORY TEXT: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

“Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith.”—
Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 657.

Suggested Reading: *Christian Service*, pp. 211-214.

Sunday, August 20

1. Requirements

a. On the day of atonement in the typical system, how do we know that the people were not judged as a group, but individually? Leviticus 23:29, 30.

Leviticus 23:29-30: *29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.*

PRQ1. Why is a personal experience necessary as we approach the final end?

Sunday, August 20

1. Requirements

b. How are we able to participate in this service when the ministration of Christ is in the heavenly sanctuary? Hebrews 11:6; 1 John 5:4.

Hebrews 11:6: *6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

1 John 5:4: *4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

PRQ1. Why is a personal experience necessary as we approach the final end?

Sunday, August 20

1. Requirements

c. What must happen to this kind of faith? Romans 3:31; James 2:17.

Romans 3:31: *31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*

James 2:17: *17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

“God requires the homage of a sanctified soul, which has prepared itself, by the exercise of the faith that works by love, to serve Him. He holds up before us the highest ideal, even perfection. He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He is for us in the presence of God.” — The Acts of the Apostles, p. 566.

“By the miracle of divine grace, many may be fitted for lives of usefulness. Despised and forsaken, they have become utterly discouraged; they may appear stoical and stolid. But under the ministration of the Holy Spirit, the stupidity that makes their uplifting appear so hopeless will pass away. The dull, clouded mind will awake. The slave of sin will be set free. Vice will disappear, and ignorance will be overcome. Through the faith that works by love, the heart will be purified and the mind enlightened.” — The Ministry of Healing, p. 169.

PRQ1. Why is a personal experience necessary as we approach the final end?

Sunday, August 20

1. Requirements

d. Name the specific things that had to be done on the day of atonement.

Leviticus 23:27–30.

Leviticus 23:27–30: *27 Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. 30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.*

PRQ1. Why is a personal experience necessary as we approach the final end?

Monday, August 21

2. Purification

a. Because our High Priest is actively working in heaven (Hebrews 10:21; 3:1), what kind of people are now needed on earth? Hebrews 10:22; Titus 2:14.

Hebrews 10:21: *21 And having an high priest over the house of God;*

Hebrews 3:1: *1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

Hebrews 10:22: *22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Titus 2:14: *14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon earth.” — The Great Controversy, p. 425.

PRQ2. As the purification of the sanctuary is going on in heaven, what corresponding work is taking place among God’s true people on earth?

Monday, August 21

2. Purification

b. What is our natural tendency when we are without church fellowship?

Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; Proverbs 12:15.

Deuteronomy 12:8: *8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.*

Judges 17:6: *6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

Proverbs 12:15: *15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*

“When our brethren voluntarily absent themselves from religious meetings, when God is not thought of and revered, when He is not chosen as their counselor and their strong tower of defense, how soon secular thoughts and wicked unbelief come in, and vain confidence and philosophy take the place of humble, trusting faith.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 426, 427.

“Never entertain the thought that you can be Christians and yet withdraw within yourselves. Each one is a part of the great web of humanity, and the nature and quality of your experience will be largely determined by the experiences of those with whom you associate.” — Ibid., vol. 7, p. 190.

PRQ2. As the purification of the sanctuary is going on in heaven, what corresponding work is taking place among God’s true people on earth?

Monday, August 21

2. Purification

c. How are we cleansed and why is there such power in that cleansing agent?

John 15:3. Explain how this occurs. Revelation 1:5; 7:14.

John 15:3: *3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

Revelation 1:5: *5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

Revelation 7:14: *14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

“In heaven there is perfect order, perfect obedience, perfect peace and harmony. Those who have had no respect for order or discipline in this life would have no respect for the order which is observed in heaven. They can never be admitted into heaven, for all worthy of an entrance there will love order and respect discipline. The characters formed in this life will determine the future destiny. When Christ shall come, He will not change the character of any individual. Precious, probationary time is given to be improved in washing our robes of character and making them white in the blood of the Lamb. To remove the stains of sin requires the work of a lifetime. Every day renewed efforts in restraining and denying self are needed.” — Ibid., vol. 4, p. 429.

PRQ2. As the purification of the sanctuary is going on in heaven, what corresponding work is taking place among God’s true people on earth?

Tuesday, August 22

3. A Holy Convocation

a. What is the purpose of religious gatherings? Hebrews 10:23, 24.

Hebrews 10:23-24: *23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

“Especially have you lost much by not taking your place in religious assemblies, placing yourself under the most healthful influences, in the channel of light. The precious opportunities for witnessing for Christ ought never to seem unessential. Do you know that when the people of God assemble to worship Him, as earnest active witnesses, they receive a rich blessing. They are Christ’s representatives and He is in their midst to bless.”—The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 1683.

“Think of the Lord Jesus, and His merits and His love, but do not seek to find the defects and dwell upon the mistakes that others have made. Call to your mind the things worthy of your recognition and your praise; and if you are sharp to discern errors in others, be more sharp to recognize the good and praise the good. You may, if you criticize yourselves, find things just as objectionable as that which you see in others. Then let us work constantly to strengthen one another in the most holy faith.”—Our High Calling, p. 232.

PRQ3. *Why is the gathering of like believers important as we near the end?*

Tuesday, August 22

3. A Holy Convocation

b. When are gatherings of like believers most urgently needed? Hebrews 10:25.

Hebrews 10:25: *25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

“Labor for those who are loitering away their lives, accomplishing only half of what they might for the Master. Strive to arouse them to a sense of their responsibility. Pray for and exhort one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching. Let brother say to brother and sister to sister, ‘Come, my fellow laborer, let us put all earnestness into our work; for the night is at hand, wherein no man can work.’ Let no one lose minutes by talking when he should be working.”—*Evangelism*, p. 653.

PRQ3. Why is the gathering of like believers important as we near the end?

Tuesday, August 22

3. A Holy Convocation

c. With whom should we be meeting and for what purpose? Matthew 18:19, 20; Jude 3.

Matthew 18:19-20: *19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Jude 1:3: *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

“Those to whom the message of truth is spoken seldom ask, ‘Is it true?’ but, ‘By whom is it advocated?’ Multitudes estimate it by the numbers who accept it; and the question is still asked, ‘Have any of the learned men or religious leaders believed?’ Men are no more favorable to real godliness now than in the days of Christ. They are just as intently seeking earthly good, to the neglect of eternal riches; and it is not an argument against the truth, that large numbers are not ready to accept it, or that it is not received by the world’s great men, or even by the religious leaders.” —The Desire of Ages, pp. 459, 460.

PRQ3. Why is the gathering of like believers important as we near the end?

Wednesday, August 23

4. Afflicting the Soul

a. What is the only way that we can endure affliction in this world? Hebrews 12:2; 3:1.

Hebrews 12:2: *2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Hebrews 3:1: *1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

“ ‘Well,’ says one, ‘I will let go. I will step out, and someone else can come in my place.’ Better not do this unless you have fully decided that you will not maintain a close connection with God. If you leave space for Satan to come in between you and Jesus, Satan will be fruitful in suggestions. There will be an abundance of machinery and a trusting in the mechanical operations but leaving out the only One who can infuse you with His Holy Spirit and in times of danger lift up a standard for you against the enemy. It will not do to depend on your finite wisdom, for you have a limited experience at best, and do not know half as much in regard to the safe and wise management of the work in your hands as you think you do.” —The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials, p. 932.

PRQ4. Why is the control of the body associated with Christian growth?

Wednesday, August 23

4. Afflicting the Soul

b. How do we know that the affliction of soul in Leviticus 23 is a day of fasting on the day of atonement? Leviticus 23:28, 29; Nehemiah 9:1, 2; Esther 4:3; Joel 2:12, 13.

Leviticus 23:28-29: *28 And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. 29 For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people.*

Nehemiah 9:1-2: *1 Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them. 2 And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.*

Esther 4:3: *3 And in every province, whithersoever the kings commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

Joel 2:12-13: *12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

“The whole ceremony was designed to impress the Israelites with the holiness of God and His abhorrence of sin; and, further, to show them that they could not come in contact with sin without becoming polluted. Every man was required to afflict his soul while this work of atonement was going forward. All business was to be laid aside, and the whole congregation of Israel were to spend the day in solemn humiliation before God, with prayer, fasting, and deep searching of heart.” — The Great Controversy, p. 419.

PRQ4. Why is the control of the body associated with Christian growth?

Wednesday, August 23

4. Afflicting the Soul

c. How important is it to keep the body under control, even with such things as fasting? James 3:2; Romans 6:12; 1 Corinthians 9:27.

James 3:2: *2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

Romans 6:12: *12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

1 Corinthians 9:27: *27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

“The apostle compared himself to a man running in a race, straining every nerve to win the prize. . . . That he might not run uncertainly or at random in the Christian race, Paul subjected himself to severe training. The words, ‘I keep under my body,’ literally mean to beat back by severe discipline the desires, impulses, and passions.”
—The Acts of the Apostles, p. 314.

“We are under solemn obligations to God to keep the spirit pure and the body healthy, that we may be a benefit to humanity and render to God perfect service.”
—The Adventist Home, p. 123.

PRQ4. Why is the control of the body associated with Christian growth?

Thursday, August 24

5. FASTING IN THE END TIMES

a. Describe the great need of God’s church in the last days. Matthew 17:19–21; Joel 2:15.

Matthew 17:19–21: *19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*

Joel 2:15: *15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:*

“[The disciples’] faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith—faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work—can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit’s aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places.”
—The Desire of Ages, p. 431.

“God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God, so that when the testing time shall come, and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith, they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear.”—Gospel Workers, p. 299.

PRQ5. Why are we to associate appropriate fasting with prayer?

Thursday, August 24

5. FASTING IN THE END TIMES

b. Of which day is Joel specifically speaking? Joel 2:28–32. Although partially fulfilled in the days of the apostles, how is it referring to the time of the end? Acts 2:17, 20.

Joel 2:28–32: *28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

Acts 2:17: *17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

Acts 2:20: *20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:*

“May 19, 1780, stands in history as ‘The Dark Day.’ Since the time of Moses no period of darkness of equal density, extent, and duration, has ever been recorded. The description of this event, as given by eyewitnesses, is but an echo of the words of the Lord, recorded by the prophet Joel, twenty-five hundred years previous to their fulfillment: [Joel 2:31 quoted].” — The Great Controversy, p. 308.

PRQ5. Why are we to associate appropriate fasting with prayer?

Friday, August 25

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is a personal experience necessary as we approach the final end?**
- 2. As the purification of the sanctuary is going on in heaven, what corresponding work is taking place among God's true people on earth?**
- 3. Why is the gathering of like believers important as we near the end?**
- 4. Why is the control of the body associated with Christian growth?**
- 5. Why are we to associate appropriate fasting with prayer?**

September - First Sabbath Offering for Rampart View Ranch, Colorado, USA

Rampart View Ranch (RVR) is located an hour from Denver, Colorado, USA. The city of Denver rises out of the broad, flat expanse of the Great Plains and is nestled against the front range of the Rocky Mountains. Known as the “Mile-High City” with an elevation of 1609 meters above sea level greater Denver has a population of over 3 million. Given its central North American location and a large well-traveled international airport, it is an easily reached and popular global travel destination. RVR sits high atop the Colorado Rocky Mountains and is a true blessing for our church in the North American region. Over the years, this facility has hosted multiple youth conventions, marriage retreats, and canvassing projects as well as conferences and workers’ meetings. The beautiful property provides unparalleled seclusion and tranquility with nearly 200 acres of mountain terrain, all made possible through the Lord’s faithful guidance and amazing providence.

“Repeatedly the Lord has instructed us that we are to work the cities from outpost centers. In these cities we are to have houses of worship, as memorials for God; but institutions for the publication of our literature, for the healing of the sick, and for the training of workers, are to be established outside the cities. Especially is it important that our youth be shielded from the temptations of city life.” — Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 358.

RVR was purchased from United States government land holdings through a process that took nearly a decade to accomplish. The land contained acres of rock formations, trees, and wilderness, but no structures or roads. Over the years, with the help of God and the generous work of volunteers, RVR has grown to its current capacity for service. A chapel and dining structure are now prominent on the property, along with cabins and dormitories. Despite the improvements made, RVR suffers shortages in fresh water supply. The property’s capacity to serve and expand is limited by a lack of water. We know that the Lord still has great plans for this property to bless His church and the world around us. With your generous help and God’s grace, we can raise the funds to drill a new well, allowing this facility to serve generations to come. May God bless the gift and the giver!

Your brethren from the Central U.S. Field

Lesson 10 - Sabbath, September 2, 2023

Dietary Considerations

MEMORY TEXT: “Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord” (Leviticus 23:27).

“The true fasting which should be recommended to all, is abstinence from every stimulating kind of food, and the proper use of wholesome, simple food, which God has provided in abundance. Men need to think less about what they shall eat and drink, of temporal food, and much more in regard to the food from heaven, that will give tone and vitality to the whole religious experience.”—Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 90.

Suggested Reading: *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pp. 117-121.

Sunday, August 27

1. That Day

a. What special day is identified in prophecy? Isaiah 22:12, 20, 22.

Isaiah 22:12: *12 And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth:*

Isaiah 22:20: *20 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah:*

Isaiah 22:22: *22 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

PRQ1. *How do we relate Isaiah 22 with the day of atonement?*

Sunday, August 27

1. That Day

b. How does the New Testament shed light on that day, relating it to the events just prior to Christ's second coming? Revelation 3:7–11.

Revelation 3:7–11: *7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; 8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. 9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

“[Revelation 3:7, 8 quoted.] Christ had opened the door, or ministration, of the most holy place, light was shining from that open door of the sanctuary in heaven, and the fourth commandment was shown to be included in the law which is there enshrined.” —The Great Controversy, p. 435.

“As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. . . .

“If they could have the assurance of pardon they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached.” —Ibid., pp. 618, 619.

PRQ1. How do we relate Isaiah 22 with the day of atonement?

Monday, August 28

2. The Antitypical Day of Atonement

a. As we read the context of the open door, how do we know it is related to the temple of God in heaven? Revelation 3:12.

Revelation 3:12: *12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

“I saw that Jesus had shut the door of the holy place, and no man can open it; and that He had opened the door into the most holy, and no man can shut it (Revelation 3:7, 8); and that since Jesus has opened the door into the most holy place, which contains the ark, the commandments have been shining out to God’s people, and they are being tested on the Sabbath question.”—Early Writings, p. 42.

PRQ2. *What happened when Jesus opened the door into the most holy place?*

Monday, August 28

2. The Antitypical Day of Atonement

b. Since Christ brings a reward with Him at His coming as a result of the investigative judgment (Revelation 22:12; 11:18), what must be opened in heaven, showing the authority of the Ten Commandments? Revelation 11:19.

Revelation 22:12: *12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

Revelation 11:18: *18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

Revelation 11:19: *19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

“I saw that the present test on the Sabbath could not come until the mediation of Jesus in the holy place was finished and He had passed within the second veil; therefore Christians who fell asleep before the door was opened into the most holy, when the midnight cry was finished, at the seventh month, 1844, and who had not kept the true Sabbath, now rest in hope; for they had not the light and the test on the Sabbath which we now have since that door was opened. I saw that Satan was tempting some of God’s people on this point. Because so many good Christians have fallen asleep in the triumphs of faith and have not kept the true Sabbath, they were doubting about its being a test for us now.” — Ibid., pp. 42, 43.

PRQ2. What happened when Jesus opened the door into the most holy place?

Monday, August 28

2. The Antitypical Day of Atonement

c. What type of restrictions in diet do we see during this antitypical day of atonement? Isaiah 22:12, 13.

Isaiah 22:12-13: *12 And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: 13 And behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die.*

“Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to his original design—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the coming of the Lord, meat-eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. I cannot think that in the practice of flesh-eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us. All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains, and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God’s plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God.”—Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 119.

PRQ2. What happened when Jesus opened the door into the most holy place?

Tuesday, August 29

3. Abstinence

a. Besides the type of food we eat, what are some other considerations as we prepare for the second advent? Luke 21:34–36.

Luke 21:34–36: *34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

“Ministers, teachers, and students do not become as intelligent as they should in regard to the necessity of physical exercise in the open air. They neglect this duty, which is most essential for the preservation of health. They closely apply their minds to books, and eat the allowance of a laboring man. Under such habits, some grow corpulent, because the system is clogged. Others become lean, feeble, and weak, because their vital powers are exhausted in throwing off the excess of food; the liver becomes burdened and unable to throw off the impurities in the blood, and sickness is the result. If physical exercise were combined with mental exertion, the blood would be quickened in its circulation, the action of the heart would be more perfect, impure matter would be thrown off, and new life and vigor would be experienced in every part of the body.”—Counsels on Health, p. 572.

“We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befogs the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonor God.”—Child Guidance, p. 532.

PRQ3. Why is controlling our body so important, including eating and drinking?

Tuesday, August 29

3. Abstinence

b. How are overeating and drunkenness associated in the Bible? Proverbs 23:20, 21, 31, 32.

Proverbs 23:20-21: *20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: 21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.*

Proverbs 23:31-32: *31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.*

“Many mothers who deplore the intemperance which exists everywhere do not look deep enough to see the cause. They are daily preparing a variety of dishes and highly seasoned food which tempt the appetite and encourage overeating. . . . Whoever will indulge appetite in eating too often, and food not of a healthful quality, is weakening his power to resist the clamors of appetite and passion in other respects in proportion as he has strengthened the propensity to incorrect habits of eating. Mothers need to be impressed with their obligation to God and to the world to furnish society with children having well-developed characters. Men and women who come upon the stage of action with firm principles will be fitted to stand unsullied amid the moral pollutions of this corrupt age. It is the duty of mothers to improve their golden opportunities to correctly educate their children for usefulness and duty.”—Counsels on Health, pp. 606, 607.

PRQ3. Why is controlling our body so important, including eating and drinking?

Wednesday, August 30

4. Christ Overcame

a. How was diet involved in the sin in Eden? Genesis 2:16, 17; 3:1–6.

Genesis 2:16-17: *16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Genesis 3:1–6: *1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

“[Satan in the form of the serpent] exulted that Adam and Eve in Eden could not resist his insinuations when he appealed to their appetite. The inhabitants of the old world he overcame in the same manner, through the indulgence of lustful appetite and corrupt passions. Through the gratification of appetite he had overthrown the Israelites. . . . David and Solomon, who had been especially favored of God, he had induced through the indulgence of appetite and passion to incur God’s displeasure. And he boasted that he could yet succeed in thwarting the purpose of God in the salvation of man through Jesus Christ.”—Confrontation, pp. 33, 34.

PRQ4. Why did Christ have to be tempted and overcome on the point of appetite?

Wednesday, August 30

4. Christ Overcame

b. On what point was Christ similarly tested and how did He decidedly overcome? Matthew 4:3, 4.

Matthew 4:3-4: *3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

“The strength of the temptation to indulge appetite can be measured only by the inexpressible anguish of our Redeemer in that long fast in the wilderness. He knew that the indulgence of perverted appetite would so deaden man’s perceptions that sacred things could not be discerned. Adam fell by the indulgence of appetite; Christ overcame by the denial of appetite. And our only hope of regaining Eden is through firm self-control. If the power of indulged appetite was so strong upon the race, that, in order to break its hold, the divine Son of God, in man’s behalf, had to endure a fast of nearly six weeks, what a work is before the Christian! Yet, however great the struggle, he may overcome. By the help of that divine power which withstood the fiercest temptations that Satan could invent, he too may be entirely successful in his warfare with evil, and at last may wear the victor’s crown in the kingdom of God.”
—Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, p. 54.

“In the wilderness of temptation, Christ was without food forty days. Moses had on especial occasions been thus long without food. But he felt not the pangs of hunger. He was not tempted and harassed by a vile and powerful foe as was the Son of God.”—Confrontation, p. 34.

“Man now has the advantage over Adam in his warfare with Satan; for he has Adam’s experience in disobedience and his consequent fall to warn him to shun his example. Man also has Christ’s example in overcoming appetite and the manifold temptations of Satan, and in vanquishing the mighty foe upon every point and coming off victor in every contest. If man stumbles and falls under the temptations of Satan, he is without excuse; for he has the disobedience of Adam as a warning, and the life of the world’s Redeemer as an example of obedience and self-denial.”—Ibid., p. 64.

PRQ4. Why did Christ have to be tempted and overcome on the point of appetite?

Thursday, August 31

5. Cleansing

a. What happens if we are still using flesh foods and consuming alcoholic beverages on the modern day of atonement? Isaiah 22:14.

Isaiah 22:14: *14 And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.*

“When the message comes to those who have not heard the truth for this time, they see that a great reformation must take place in their diet. They see that they must put away flesh food, because it creates an appetite for liquor, and fills the system with disease. By meat eating, the physical, mental, and moral powers are weakened. Man is built up from that which he eats. Animal passions bear sway as the result of meat eating, tobacco using, and liquor drinking. The Lord will give His people wisdom to prepare from that which the earth yields, foods that will take the place of flesh meat. Simple combinations of nuts and grains and fruits, manufactured with taste and skill, will commend themselves to unbelievers. But as a usual thing, too many nuts are used in the combinations made.”—Counsels on Diet and Foods, pp. 268, 269.

“A positive injury is done to the system by continuous meat-eating. There is no excuse for it but a depraved, perverted appetite. You may ask, would you do away entirely with meat-eating? I answer, it will eventually come to this, but we are not prepared for this step just now. Meat-eating will eventually be done away. The flesh of animals will no longer compose a part of our diet; and we shall look upon a butcher’s shop with disgust. Again and again I have been shown that God is bringing His people back to His original design, that is not to subsist upon the flesh of dead animals.”—Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods, p. 69.

PRQ5. How do we know that flesh food cannot be a part of the diet of God’s people who are waiting for the second coming of Christ?

Thursday, August 31

5. Cleansing

b. What will happen to us if we comply with God's conditions on the day of atonement? Leviticus 16:29, 30.

Leviticus 16:29-30: *29 And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: 30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.*

PRQ5. *How do we know that flesh food cannot be a part of the diet of God's people who are waiting for the second coming of Christ?*

Thursday, August 31

5. Cleansing

c. What final pronouncement is made to the faithful just before Jesus comes—and to what should that lead us? Revelation 22:11–14; 2 Peter 1:10.

Revelation 22:11–14: *11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

2 Peter 1:10: *10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

PRQ5. *How do we know that flesh food cannot be a part of the diet of God's people who are waiting for the second coming of Christ?*

Friday, September 1

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. How do we relate Isaiah 22 with the day of atonement?**
- 2. What happened when Jesus opened the door into the most holy place?**
- 3. Why is controlling our body so important, including eating and drinking?**
- 4. Why did Christ have to be tempted and overcome on the point of appetite?**
- 5. How do we know that flesh food cannot be a part of the diet of God's people who are waiting for the second coming of Christ?**

Lesson 11 - Sabbath, September 9, 2023

Dietetic History

MEMORY TEXT: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2).

“When men yield their hearts to unbelief, they place themselves under the control of Satan, and none can tell to what lengths he will lead them.”—The Review and Herald, October 29, 1903.

Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 293-297, 377-382.

Sunday, September 3

1. Restoration

a. How do we know that before Christ comes there must be a restoration of principles as given in the beginning? Acts 3:20, 21; Jeremiah 6:16.

Acts 3:20-21: *20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

Jeremiah 6:16: *16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

PRQ1. *Why does God want His people to restore life to the way of Eden?*

Sunday, September 3

1. Restoration

b. What was the original diet and why did herbs become necessary? Genesis 1:29; 3:17, 18; Psalm 104:14.

Genesis 1:29: *29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*

Genesis 3:17-18: *17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

Psalm 104:14: *14 He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;*

“We must study God’s original plan for man’s diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food. [Genesis 1:29 quoted.] Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also ‘the herb of the field.’ Genesis 3:18.

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.”—The Ministry of Healing, pp. 295, 296.

PRQ1. Why does God want His people to restore life to the way of Eden?

Sunday, September 3

1. Restoration

c. How do we know it was not God’s will to permit flesh foods? Ezekiel 20:24, 25; Deuteronomy 12:20; Psalm 106:14, 15; Romans 7:7.

Ezekiel 20:24-25: *24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers idols. 25 Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;*

Deuteronomy 12:20: *20 When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.*

Psalm 106:14-15: *14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.*

Romans 7:7: *7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

“By departing from the plan divinely appointed for their diet, the Israelites suffered great loss.”—Ibid., p. 312.

PRQ1. Why does God want His people to restore life to the way of Eden?

Sunday, September 3

1. Restoration

d. Why did God prohibit the eating of fat and blood? Leviticus 3:17; 17:11; Acts 15:20.

Leviticus 3:17: *17 It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.*

Leviticus 17:11: *11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Acts 15:20: *20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.*

PRQ1. *Why does God want His people to restore life to the way of Eden?*

Monday, September 4

2. Ready for Jesus?

a. Why were so many of the Hebrew people destroyed in the wilderness? 1 Corinthians 10:5–10; Hebrews 3:19.

1 Corinthians 10:5–10: *5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*

Hebrews 3:19: *19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

“The watchmen upon the walls of Zion should have been the first to catch the tidings of the Saviour’s advent, the first to lift their voices to proclaim Him near, the first to warn the people to prepare for His coming. But they were at ease, dreaming of peace and safety, while the people were asleep in their sins. Jesus saw His church, like the barren fig tree, covered with pretentious leaves, yet destitute of precious fruit. There was a boastful observance of the forms of religion, while the spirit of true humility, penitence, and faith—which alone could render the service acceptable to God—was lacking. Instead of the graces of the Spirit there were manifested pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, oppression. A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times. God did not forsake them, or suffer His faithfulness to fail; but they departed from Him, and separated themselves from His love. As they refused to comply with the conditions, His promises were not fulfilled to them.”—The Great Controversy, pp. 315, 316.

“Let us remember that time is short. Tell the people that golden opportunities for service are being neglected. All nations are to be warned and instructed to seek the Lord without delay; for that mighty angel who deceived so many of the angelic host is working untiringly to set in operation his seductive wiles, with which he has deceived millions, and through which he desires to deceive the whole world. The work of which the prophet Zechariah writes is a type of the spiritual restoration to be wrought for Israel before the end of time.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 315.

PRQ2. How does the Hebrews’ experience in the wilderness relate to us now?

Monday, September 4

2. Ready for Jesus?

b. How does that apply to us in preparing for the advent? 1 Corinthians 10:11.

1 Corinthians 10:11: *11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

“To prepare a people to stand in the day of God, a great work of reform was to be accomplished. God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity, and in His mercy He was about to send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor and lead them to make ready for the coming of the Lord.” — The Great Controversy, p. 311.

“The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body. God led His people in the advent movement, even as He led the children of Israel from Egypt. In the great disappointment their faith was tested as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Had they still trusted to the guiding hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen the salvation of God.” — Ibid., pp. 457, 458.

PRQ2. *How does the Hebrews' experience in the wilderness relate to us now?*

Tuesday, September 5

3. The Pot of Manna

a. Upon leaving Egypt, for what did the Hebrews soon clamor and what did God do about it? Exodus 16:3, 13–15.

Exodus 16:3: *3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.*

Exodus 16:13–15: *13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. 15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

“The Israelites, during their bondage in Egypt, had been compelled to subsist on the plainest and simplest food; but then keen appetite induced by privation and hard labor had made it palatable. Many of the Egyptians, however, who were now among them, had been accustomed to a luxurious diet; and these were the first to complain. At the giving of the manna, just before Israel reached Sinai, the Lord had granted them flesh in answer to their clamors; but it was furnished them for only one day. “God might as easily have provided them with flesh as with manna, but a restriction was placed upon them for their good. It was His purpose to supply them with food better suited to their wants than the feverish diet to which many had become accustomed in Egypt. The perverted appetite was to be brought into a more healthy state, that they might enjoy the food originally provided for man—the fruits of the earth, which God gave to Adam and Eve in Eden. It was for this reason that the Israelites had been deprived, in a great measure, of animal food.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 377, 378.

PRQ3. Why did God memorialize the manna in the ark?

Tuesday, September 5

3. The Pot of Manna

b. How did the angels prepare a better diet for them? Psalm 78:25.

Psalm 78:25: *25 Man did eat angels food: he sent them meat to the full.*

“For forty years they were daily reminded by this miraculous provision, of God’s unfailing care and tender love. In the words of the psalmist, God gave them ‘of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels’ food’ (Psalm 78:24, 25)—that is, food provided for them by the angels.”—Ibid., p. 297.

PRQ3. *Why did God memorialize the manna in the ark?*

Tuesday, September 5

3. The Pot of Manna

c. How was this food memorialized? Exodus 16:32, 33; Hebrews 9:4.

Exodus 16:32-33: *32 And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt. 33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.*

Hebrews 9:4: *4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aarons rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

“In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, and as the saints’ prayers came up to Him, the incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father. In the ark was the golden pot of manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of stone which folded together like a book. Jesus opened them, and I saw the ten commandments written on them with the finger of God.”—Early Writings, p. 32.

PRQ3. Why did God memorialize the manna in the ark?

Wednesday, September 6

4. The Flesh Pots of Egypt

a. Who were the first to complain about their diet? What was the specific type of flesh and how do we know that they did not long for just the side dishes that were prepared with it? Numbers 11:4–6, 9–13.

Numbers 11:4–6: *4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? 5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

Numbers 11:9–13: *9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. 10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. 11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? 12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? 13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.*

“[The Hebrews] became weary of the food prepared for them by angels, and sent to them from Heaven. They knew it was just the food God wished them to have, and that it was healthful for them and their children. Notwithstanding their hardships in the wilderness, there was not a feeble one in all their tribes. Satan, the author of disease and misery, will approach God’s people where he can have the greatest success. He has controlled the appetite in a great measure from the time of his successful experiment with Eve, in leading her to eat the forbidden fruit. He came with his temptations first to the mixed multitude, the believing Egyptians, and stirred them up to seditious murmurings. They would not be content with the healthful food which God had provided for them. Their depraved appetites craved a greater variety, especially flesh-meats.” — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 281.

PRQ4. What happens when we deliberately go against God’s revealed will?

Wednesday, September 6

4. The Flesh Pots of Egypt

b. How did God comply with their request, and what was the result this time as they were better instructed than when they first left Egypt? Numbers 11:18–20, 33; Psalm 78:27–31.

Numbers 11:18–20: *18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. 19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; 20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?*

Numbers 11:33: *33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.*

Psalm 78:27–31: *27 He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: 28 And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about their habitations. 29 So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire; 30 They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, 31 The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.*

“In this instance the Lord gave the people that which was not for their best good, because they would have it. They would not submit to receive from the Lord only those things which would prove for their good. They gave themselves up to seditious murmurings against Moses, and against the Lord, because they did not receive those things which would prove an injury to them. Their depraved appetites controlled them, and God gave them flesh-meats, as they desired, and let them suffer the results of gratifying their lustful appetites. ...

Continued on next page...

Burning fevers cut down very large numbers of the people. Those who had been the most guilty in their murmurings, were slain as soon as they tasted the meat for which they had lusted. If they had submitted to have the Lord select their food for them, and had been thankful, and satisfied with food of which they could eat freely without injury, they would not have lost the favor of God, and then been punished for their rebellious murmurings, by great numbers of them being slain.” —Ibid., vol. 1, pp. 284, 285.

PRQ4. What happens when we deliberately go against God's revealed will?

Wednesday, September 6

4. The Flesh Pots of Egypt

c. What are we to call this deliberate act of rebellion? Psalm 78:17, 32.

Psalm 78:17: *17 And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.*

Psalm 78:32: *32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.*

PRQ4. What happens when we deliberately go against God's revealed will?

Thursday, September 7

5. Written for Our Time

a. How do we know this warning about the spiritual consequences was written specifically for us today? 1 Corinthians 10:11; Psalm 106:14, 15.

1 Corinthians 10:11: *11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

Psalm 106:14-15: *14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.*

“We need to beware lest we suffer the same fate as did ancient Israel. The history of their disobedience and downfall has been recorded for our instruction, that we may avoid doing as they did. It has been written ‘for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.’ If we pass by these cautions and warnings, developing the same traits of character developed by the Israelites, what excuse can we plead?”
—The Review and Herald, July 10, 1900.

PRQ5. How do we know it is a sin to insist on eating flesh foods in these last days?

Thursday, September 7

5. Written for Our Time

b. When preparing to enter the earthly Canaan, it was a sin for them to desire flesh meats. Contrast this to life in the new earth. Isaiah 11:6; 65:25.

Isaiah 11:6: *6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.*

Isaiah 65:25: *25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpents meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

PRQ5. *How do we know it is a sin to insist on eating flesh foods in these last days?*

Thursday, September 7

5. Written for Our Time

c. What opportunity did God give on the border of the promised land and how many actually entered there? Deuteronomy 30:19; Numbers 26:63–65.

Deuteronomy 30:19: *19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

Numbers 26:63–65: *63 These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. 64 But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. 65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

“The God who in the wilderness gave the children of Israel manna from heaven still lives and reigns. . . .

“We need to look heavenward in faith. We are not to be discouraged because of apparent failure, nor should we be disheartened by delay. We should work cheerfully, hopefully, gratefully, believing that the earth holds in her bosom rich treasures for the faithful worker to garner, stores richer than gold or silver. The mountains and hills are changing; the earth is waxing old like a garment; but the blessing of God, which spreads for His people a table in the wilderness, will never cease.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 200.

PRQ5. How do we know it is a sin to insist on eating flesh foods in these last days?

Friday, September 8

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does God want His people to restore life to the way of Eden?**
- 2. How does the Hebrews' experience in the wilderness relate to us now?**
- 3. Why did God memorialize the manna in the ark?**
- 4. What happens when we deliberately go against God's revealed will?**
- 5. How do we know it is a sin to insist on eating flesh foods in these last days?**

Lesson 12 - Sabbath, September 16, 2023

Inspired Prophets

MEMORY TEXT: “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

“Of special value to God’s church on earth today—the keepers of His vineyard—are the messages of counsel and admonition given through the prophets who have made plain His eternal purpose in behalf of mankind. In the teachings of the prophets His love for the lost race and His plan for their salvation are clearly revealed.”—My Life Today, p. 40.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. v–xii.

Sunday, September 10

1. Communicating With Humanity

a. How did God communicate with humanity after sin came? Hebrews 1:1, 2.

Hebrews 1:1-2: *1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

“Before the entrance of sin, Adam enjoyed open communion with his Maker; but since man separated himself from God by transgression, the human race has been cut off from this high privilege. By the plan of redemption, however, a way has been opened whereby the inhabitants of the earth may still have connection with heaven.”
—The Great Controversy, p. v.

PRQ1. *Why is communication so important in the life of a believer?*

Sunday, September 10

1. Communicating With Humanity

b. How did God communicate personally to humanity? 1 Timothy 3:16; Colossians 2:9.

1 Timothy 3:16: *16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Colossians 2:9: *9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

“Ever since Adam’s sin, the human race had been cut off from direct communion with God; the intercourse between heaven and earth had been through Christ; but now that Jesus had come ‘in the likeness of sinful flesh’ (Romans 8:3), the Father Himself spoke. He had before communicated with humanity through Christ; now He communicated with humanity in Christ.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 116.

PRQ1. Why is communication so important in the life of a believer?

Sunday, September 10

1. Communicating With Humanity

c. What was needed after Jesus went back to the Father and what was His purpose? John 14:6, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 12–14; Acts 2:16–18.

John 14:6: *6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John 14:26: *26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

John 15:26: *26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

John 16:7: *7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

John 16:12–14: *12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Acts 2:16–18: *16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:*

PRQ1. Why is communication so important in the life of a believer?

Monday, September 11

2. The Gift of Prophecy

a. **Until Christ's return, how vital are all spiritual gifts? 1 Corinthians 1:4–8.**

1 Corinthians 1:4–8: *4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; 6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

PRQ2. *What is the purpose of the spirit of prophecy?*

Monday, September 11

2. The Gift of Prophecy

b. What identifies God’s final church and its gift of the testimony of Jesus? Revelation 12:17; 19:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2–5, 19–21.

Revelation 12:17: *17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 19:10: *10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

1 Thessalonians 5:2–5: *2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21: *19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesyings. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*

“Perilous times are before us. Every one who has a knowledge of the truth should awake, and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?” —Gospel Workers, p. 308.

PRQ2. What is the purpose of the spirit of prophecy?

Monday, September 11

2. The Gift of Prophecy

c. Instead of going to false mediums, where should we turn? Isaiah 8:16, 19.

Isaiah 8:16: *16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.*

Isaiah 8:19: *19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?*

“[In God’s providence] are revealed the snares and devices of Satan, the importance of perfecting Christian character, and the means by which this result may be obtained. Thus God indicates what is necessary to secure His blessing. There is a disposition on the part of many to let rebellious feelings arise if their peculiar sins are reprov’d. The spirit of this generation is: ‘Speak unto us smooth things.’ But the spirit of prophecy speaks only the truth. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many who profess to follow Christ waxes cold. They are blind to the wickedness of their own hearts and do not feel their weak and helpless condition. God in mercy lifts the veil and shows them that there is an eye behind the scenes that discerns their hidden guilt and the motives of their actions.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 13.

“In His providence the Lord has seen fit to teach and warn His people in various ways. By direct command, by the sacred writings, and by the spirit of prophecy has He made known unto them His will.

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.”—My Life Today, p. 40.

PRQ2. What is the purpose of the spirit of prophecy?

Tuesday, September 12

3. Tested by Scripture

a. What is the basic test of a true prophet? Isaiah 8:20.

Isaiah 8:20: *20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

“The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 665.

PRQ3. How do we test the prophets and how are we to deal with the results?

Tuesday, September 12

3. Tested by Scripture

b. What are we to do if one is proven a false prophet? Deuteronomy 13:1–5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 1:9–11.

Deuteronomy 13:1–5: *1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

Romans 16:17: *17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

2 John 1:9–11: *9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

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“[God] has given us a message to bear to His people. For thirty years we have been receiving the words of God and speaking them to His people. We have trembled at the responsibility, which we have accepted with much prayer and meditation. We have stood as God’s ambassadors, in Christ’s stead beseeching souls to be reconciled to God. We have warned of danger as God has presented before us the perils of His people. Our work has been given us of God. What, then, will be the condition of those who refuse to hear the words which God has sent them, because they cross their track or reprove their wrongs? . . . God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.”—Ibid., vol. 4, pp. 229, 230.

“[The prince of evil] is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”—The Great Controversy, p. 593.

PRQ3. How do we test the prophets and how are we to deal with the results?

Tuesday, September 12

3. Tested by Scripture

c. How are all new prophets tested and why? 1 Corinthians 14:32; John 10:27.

1 Corinthians 14:32: *32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

John 10:27: *27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

“Some who profess to make the word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 663.

“Additional truth is not brought out; but God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse.” — Ibid., p. 665.

PRQ3. How do we test the prophets and how are we to deal with the results?

Wednesday, September 13

4. The Kingdom Within

a. Why is it important to believe in a personal Saviour in our life right now, not just a historic figure? Explain. 1 John 4:1–3; Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27; John 15:4, 5.

1 John 4:1–3: *1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

Ephesians 3:17: *17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

Colossians 1:27: *27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

John 15:4-5: *4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

“Christ was teaching, and, as usual, others besides His disciples had gathered about Him. He had been speaking to the disciples of the scenes in which they were soon to act a part. They were to publish abroad the truths He had committed to them, and they would be brought in conflict with the rulers of this world. For His sake they would be called into courts, and before magistrates and kings. He had assured them of wisdom which none could gainsay. His own words, that moved the hearts of the multitude, and brought to confusion His wily adversaries, witnessed to the power of that indwelling Spirit which He had promised to His followers.”—Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 252.

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“The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others.” —Ibid., p. 419.

“One sentence of Scripture is of more value than ten thousand of man’s ideas or arguments. Those who refuse to follow God’s way will finally receive the sentence, ‘Depart from Me.’ But when we submit to God’s way, the Lord Jesus guides our minds and fills our lips with assurance. We may be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Receiving Christ, we are clothed with power. An indwelling Saviour makes His power our property. The truth becomes our stock in trade. No unrighteousness is seen in the life. We are able to speak words in season to those who know not the truth. Christ’s presence in the heart is a vitalizing power, strengthening the entire being.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 71.

PRQ4. How does an indwelling Christ affect our Christian experience?

Wednesday, September 13

4. The Kingdom Within

**b. How did Moses recognize the need of the personal presence of Christ?
Exodus 33:13–16.**

Exodus 33:13–16: *13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. 14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.*

“Moses had a deep sense of the personal presence of God. He was not only looking down through the ages for Christ to be made manifest in the flesh, but he saw Christ in a special manner accompanying the children of Israel in all their travels. God was real to him, ever present in his thoughts. When misunderstood, when called upon to face danger and to bear insult for Christ’s sake, he endured without retaliation. Moses believed in God as one whom he needed and who would help him because of his need. God was to him a present help.” —Ibid., vol. 5, p. 651.

PRQ4. How does an indwelling Christ affect our Christian experience?

Thursday, September 14

5. Straight Testimony

a. What is God's perspective regarding worldliness? 1 John 4:5; James 4:4.

1 John 4:5: *5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*

James 4:4: *4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

“The world must not be introduced into the church, and married to the church, forming a bond of unity. Through this means the church will become indeed corrupt.” — Testimonies to Ministers, p. 265.

“The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers that would identify us with them, is forbidden by the Word. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans of work. But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can.” — Gospel Workers, p. 394

PRQ5. *How do God's true prophets teach His people to separate from the world?*

Thursday, September 14

5. Straight Testimony

b. Why is unity with the world an impossibility—and what is the purpose of a prophet in this regard? 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ezekiel 44:23.

2 Corinthians 6:14–18: *14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Ezekiel 44:23: *23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.*

“The question now to be asked is, Are the professed followers of Christ complying with the conditions upon which the blessing is pronounced? Are they separating in spirit and practice from the world? How hard to come out and be separate from worldly habits and customs. But let us look well to it that Satan does not allure and deceive us through false representations. Eternal interests are here involved. God’s claims should come first; His requirements should receive our first attention. Every child of fallen Adam must, through the transforming grace of Christ, become obedient to all God’s requirements. Many close their eyes to the plainest teachings of His word because the cross stands directly in the way. If they lift it, they must appear singular in the eyes of the world; and they hesitate, and question, and search for some excuse whereby they may shun the cross. Satan is ever ready, and he presents plausible reasons why it would not be best to obey the word of God just as it reads. Thus souls are fatally deceived.”—The Review and Herald, August 25, 1885.

PRQ5. How do God’s true prophets teach His people to separate from the world?

Friday, September 15

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is communication so important in the life of a believer?**
- 2. What is the purpose of the spirit of prophecy?**
- 3. How do we test the prophets and how are we to deal with the results?**
- 4. How does an indwelling Christ affect our Christian experience?**
- 5. How do God's true prophets teach His people to separate from the world?**

Lesson 13 - Sabbath, September 23, 2023

Testing the Prophets

MEMORY TEXT: “And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved” (Hosea 12:13).

“Preaching is a small part of the work to be done for the salvation of souls. God’s Spirit convicts sinners of the truth, and He places them in the arms of the church. The ministers may do their part, but they can never perform the work that the church should do.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 69.

Suggested Reading: *Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 227-246.*

Sunday, September 17

1. Persecution and Sacrifice

a. What must true prophets endure and why? James 5:10; 1 Kings 18:17, 18.

James 5:10: *10 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*

1 Kings 18:17-18: *17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? 18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy fathers house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

“Isaiah, who was permitted by the Lord to see wonderful things, was sawn asunder, because he faithfully reproveth the sins of the Jewish nation. The prophets who came to look after the Lord’s vineyard, were indeed beaten and killed. ‘They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goat-skins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented’ — men of whom the world was not worthy. They were cruelly treated, and banished from the world.” — The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1137.

PRQ1. Why is it that those who teach the pure truth often face persecution?

Sunday, September 17

1. Persecution and Sacrifice

b. What confirms the existence of true prophets until the end of time and how must they be tested? Matthew 7:15–20; 1 John 2:4.

Matthew 7:15–20: *15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheeps clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

1 John 2:4: *4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

PRQ1. *Why is it that those who teach the pure truth often face persecution?*

Sunday, September 17

1. Persecution and Sacrifice

c. Why is a true prophet a blessing in the church? Ephesians 4:8, 11–16.

Ephesians 4:8: *8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

Ephesians 4:11–16: *11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

“A union of believers with Christ will as a natural result lead to a union with one another, which bond of union is the most enduring upon earth. . . . It is only by personal union with Christ, by communion with Him daily, hourly, that we can bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.” —Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 47, 48.

“Unity is the sure result of Christian perfection.” —The Sanctified Life, p. 85.

PRQ1. Why is it that those who teach the pure truth often face persecution?

Monday, September 18

2. Working of Miracles

a. Are working miracles a test of a true prophet? Luke 7:26–28; John 10:41.

Luke 7:26–28: *26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. 27 This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*

John 10:41: *41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.*

“By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth. And Satan, surrounded by evil angels, and claiming to be God, will work miracles of all kinds, to deceive, if possible, the very elect. God’s people will not find their safety in working miracles, for Satan will counterfeit the miracles that will be wrought. God’s tried and tested people will find their power in the sign spoken of in Exodus 31:12–18. They are to take their stand on the living word: ‘It is written.’ This is the only foundation upon which they can stand securely. Those who have broken their covenant with God will in that day be without God and without hope.”
—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 16.

PRQ2. Why are miracles not a testing point in these last days?

Monday, September 18

2. Working of Miracles

b. Who will make the most of working miracles in the last days? Revelation 19:20; 13:14.

Revelation 19:20: *20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Revelation 13:14: *14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.*

“Satan closely watches events, and when he finds one who has a specially strong spirit of opposition to the truth of God he will even reveal to him unfulfilled events, that he may more firmly secure himself a seat in his heart. He who did not hesitate to brave a conflict with Him who holds creation as in His hand, has malignity to persecute and deceive. He holds mortals in his snare at the present time.”—Ibid., vol. 2, pp. 171, 172.

PRQ2. Why are miracles not a testing point in these last days?

Monday, September 18

2. Working of Miracles

c. Why are we to make so many tests today? 2 Corinthians 11:14.

2 Corinthians 11:14: *14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

“As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.” — The Great Controversy, p. 588.

“We are living in perilous times, and it does not become us to accept everything claimed to be truth without examining it thoroughly; neither can we afford to reject anything that bears the fruits of the Spirit of God; but we should be teachable, meek and lowly of heart. There are those who oppose everything that is not in accordance with their own ideas, and by so doing they endanger their eternal interest as verily as did the Jewish nation in their rejection of Christ.” — Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 35, 36.

PRQ2. *Why are miracles not a testing point in these last days?*

Tuesday, September 19

3. Prophecies Fulfilled

a. How does God speak to human beings? Numbers 12:6.

Numbers 12:6: *6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.*

“During the first twenty-five hundred years of human history, there was no written revelation. Those who had been taught of God, communicated their knowledge to others, and it was handed down from father to son, through successive generations. The preparation of the written word began in the time of Moses. Inspired revelations were then embodied in an inspired book. This work continued during the long period of sixteen hundred years—from Moses, the historian of creation and the law, to John, the recorder of the most sublime truths of the gospel. . . .

“Written in different ages, by men who differed widely in rank and occupation, and in mental and spiritual endowments, the books of the Bible present a wide contrast in style, as well as a diversity in the nature of the subjects unfolded. Different forms of expression are employed by different writers; often the same truth is more strikingly presented by one than by another. And as several writers present a subject under varied aspects and relations, there may appear, to the superficial, careless, or prejudiced reader, to be discrepancy or contradiction, where the thoughtful, reverent student, with clearer insight, discerns the underlying harmony.

“As presented through different individuals, the truth is brought out in its varied aspects. One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; another seizes upon a different phase; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind—a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life.”—The Great Controversy, pp. v–vi.

PRQ3. *What method does God use to communicate to prophets?*

Tuesday, September 19

3. Prophecies Fulfilled

b. What are we to expect when a prophet makes a prediction? Jeremiah 28:9. As we see Protestantism and Catholicism unite today, what prediction is now fulfilling that was made over a century ago?

Jeremiah 28:9: *9 The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, then shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him.*

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 451.

PRQ3. What method does God use to communicate to prophets?

Wednesday, September 20

4. The Purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy

a. What are we to expect as we approach the end of time—and how are we to deal with these dangers? 2 Timothy 3:1; Isaiah 59:19, 20.

2 Timothy 3:1: *1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

Isaiah 59:19-20: *19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. 20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*

“We are living in perilous times. Amidst the changing scenes, with heresy and false doctrines coming in that will test the faith of all, the house built on the solid rock cannot be shaken. But when storm and tempest come, the house built on the sand will fall, and great will be the fall of it.

“Let us take heed, then, how we build. Let no one build unwisely. The word of God is our only foundation. Every semblance of error will come upon us. Some of these errors will be very specious and attractive, but if received, they would remove the pillars of the foundation that Christ has established and set up a structure of man’s building. . . . Under Satan’s guidance they prepare false foundations for human minds.” —Medical Ministry, p. 87.

PRQ4. Why do we need the spirit of prophecy today?

Wednesday, September 20

4. The Purpose of the Spirit of Prophecy

b. How do prophets help the church? 2 Kings 6:8–12; 1 Corinthians 14:22; Ephesians 4:12.

2 Kings 6:8–12: *8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? 12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.*

1 Corinthians 14:22: *22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.*

Ephesians 4:12: *12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

“God has given me a marked, solemn experience in connection with His work; and you may be assured that so long as my life is spared, I shall not cease to lift a warning voice as I am impressed by the Spirit of God, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear. I have no special wisdom in myself; I am only an instrument in the Lord’s hands to do the work He has set for me to do. The instructions that I have given by pen or voice have been an expression of the light that God has given me. I have tried to place before you the principles that the Spirit of God has for years been impressing upon my mind and writing on my heart.

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“And now, brethren, I entreat you not to interpose between me and the people, and turn away the light which God would have come to them. Do not by your criticisms take out all the force, all the point and power, from the Testimonies. Do not feel that you can dissect them to suit your own ideas, claiming that God has given you ability to discern what is light from heaven and what is the expression of mere human wisdom. If the Testimonies speak not according to the word of God, reject them. Christ and Belial cannot be united. For Christ’s sake do not confuse the minds of the people with humans sophistry and skepticism, and make of none effect the work that the Lord would do. Do not, by your lack of spiritual discernment, make of this agency of God a rock of offense whereby many shall be caused to stumble and fall.”
—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 691.

PRQ4. Why do we need the spirit of prophecy today?

Thursday, September 21

5. In The Beginning

a. Who is to test the prophets? 1 Corinthians 12:28.

1 Corinthians 12:28: *28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*

PRQ5. What are we to do when we recognize a prophet from God?

Thursday, September 21

5. In The Beginning

b. Can the same prophet be both true and false? Explain. James 3:11.

James 3:11: *11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

“There are some professed believers who accept certain portions of the Testimonies as the message of God, while they reject those portions that condemn their favorite indulgences. Such persons are working contrary to their own welfare and the welfare of the church. It is essential that we walk in the light while we have the light. Those who claim to believe in health reform, and yet work counter to its principles in the daily life practice, are hurting their own souls and are leaving wrong impressions upon the minds of believers and unbelievers.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 154.

PRQ5. What are we to do when we recognize a prophet from God?

Thursday, September 21

5. In The Beginning

c. What are we to do when we recognize a prophet to be sent by God? 2 Chronicles 20:20; Hosea 12:13; Psalm 34:8.

2 Chronicles 20:20: *20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*

Hosea 12:13: *13 And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.*

Psalm 34:8: *8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

“God has given sufficient evidence, so that all who desire to do so may satisfy themselves as to the character of the Testimonies; and, having acknowledged them to be from God, it is their duty to accept reproof, even though they do not themselves see the sinfulness of their course. If they fully realized their condition, what would be the need of reproof? Because they know it not, God mercifully sets it before them, so that they may repent and reform before it shall be too late.” —Ibid., vol. 5, p. 682.

“My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.” —Ibid., vol. 4, p. 230.

PRQ5. What are we to do when we recognize a prophet from God?

Friday, September 22

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it that those who teach the pure truth often face persecution?**
- 2. Why are miracles not a testing point in these last days?**
- 3. What method does God use to communicate to prophets?**
- 4. Why do we need the spirit of prophecy today?**
- 5. What are we to do when we recognize a prophet from God?**

Lesson 14 - Sabbath, September 30, 2023

The Testimony of Jesus

MEMORY TEXT: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

“The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. It is the knowledge that works transformation of character. This knowledge, received, will re-create the soul in the image of God. It will impart to the whole being a spiritual power that is divine.”—The Ministry of Healing, p. 425.

Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 593-602.

Sunday, September 24

1. Communication

a. How did God communicate with mankind in the beginning and what caused this to stop? Genesis 3:8–10; Isaiah 59:2. Why is it important? John 17:3.

Genesis 3:8–10: *8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. 9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? 10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

Isaiah 59:2: *2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

John 17:3: *3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

PRQ1. *Why is it so urgent that we have communication with God?*

Sunday, September 24

1. Communication

b. How has God given messages for prophets to deliver—and why are these needed? Genesis 18:18, 19; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 1:18–24.

Genesis 18:18-19: *18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*

2 Peter 1:21: *21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

1 Corinthians 1:18–24: *18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.*

“The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and a perfect adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart, that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while it enables the humble and uncultured to discern the way of salvation. And yet these simply stated truths lay hold upon subjects so elevated, so far-reaching, so infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension, that we can accept them only because God has declared them. Thus the plan of redemption is laid open to us so that every soul may see the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God’s appointed way; yet beneath these truths, so easily understood, lie mysteries which are the hiding of His glory—mysteries which overpower the mind in its research, yet inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more he searches the Bible, the deeper is his conviction that it is the word of the living God.”—Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 700.

PRQ1. Why is it so urgent that we have communication with God?

Sunday, September 24

1. Communication

c. How many of God's people should have been prophets? Numbers 11:24–29.

Numbers 11:24–29: *24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. 25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. 26 But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp. 27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. 28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them. 29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORDS people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!*

PRQ1. *Why is it so urgent that we have communication with God?*

Monday, September 25

2. Mount Sinai

a. When it came time to deliver the law to the Israelites, how did God communicate with them? Deuteronomy 5:22–24.

Deuteronomy 5:22–24: *22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. 23 And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders; 24 And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.*

“[God] did not even then trust His precepts to the memory of a people who were prone to forget His requirements, but wrote them upon tables of stone. He would remove from Israel all possibility of mingling heathen traditions with His holy precepts, or of confounding His requirements with human ordinances or customs. But He did not stop with giving them the precepts of the Decalogue. The people had shown themselves so easily led astray that He would leave no door of temptation unguarded. Moses was commanded to write, as God should bid him, judgments and laws giving minute instruction as to what was required. These directions relating to the duty of the people to God, to one another, and to the stranger were only the principles of the Ten Commandments amplified and given in a specific manner, that none need err. They were designed to guard the sacredness of the ten precepts engraved on the tables of stone. “If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God’s law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 364.

PRQ2. How was God’s intention revealed that the people should understand a deeper meaning than just the basic written words of the law?

Monday, September 25

2. Mount Sinai

b. Where was the law to dwell? Deuteronomy 5:29; 6:5; 2 Corinthians 3:3.

Deuteronomy 5:29: *29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

Deuteronomy 6:5: *5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

2 Corinthians 3:3: *3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

PRQ2. *How was God's intention revealed that the people should understand a deeper meaning than just the basic written words of the law?*

Monday, September 25

2. Mount Sinai

c. What did the people fail to realize in the law? Exodus 20:13; 1 John 3:15.

Exodus 20:13: *13 Thou shalt not kill.*

1 John 3:15: *15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

“In consequence of continual transgression, the moral law was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the ten commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon men in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law.” —The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 1, p. 1104.

PRQ2. How was God’s intention revealed that the people should understand a deeper meaning than just the basic written words of the law?

Tuesday, September 26

3. More Prophets

a. Why were the Israelites continually needing more prophets? Judges 6:7–10.

Judges 6:7–10: *7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, 8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; 10 And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.*

“Until the generation that had received instruction from Joshua became extinct, idolatry made little headway; but the parents had prepared the way for the apostasy of their children. The disregard of the Lord’s restrictions on the part of those who came in possession of Canaan sowed seeds of evil that continued to bring forth bitter fruit for many generations. The simple habits of the Hebrews had secured them physical health; but association with the heathen led to the indulgence of appetite and passion, which gradually lessened physical strength and enfeebled the mental and moral powers. By their sins the Israelites were separated from God; His strength was removed from them, and they could no longer prevail against their enemies. Thus they were brought into subjection to the very nations that through God they might have subdued. . . .

“Yet He did not utterly forsake His people. There was ever a remnant who were true to Jehovah; and from time to time the Lord raised up faithful and valiant men to put down idolatry and to deliver the Israelites from their enemies. But when the deliverer was dead, and the people were released from his authority, they would gradually return to their idols. And thus the story of backsliding and chastisement, of confession and deliverance, was repeated again and again.” — Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 544, 545.

PRQ3. At what point did God send more information through the prophets and what happened when they kept rejecting it?

Tuesday, September 26

3. More Prophets

b. What happened when they went too deep into apostasy—and why? Ezekiel 3:4–7; 1 Samuel 28:6; 2 Chronicles 36:14–16; Luke 11:47–51.

Ezekiel 3:4–7: *4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. 5 For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; 6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. 7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.*

1 Samuel 28:6: *6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams nor by Urim, nor by prophets.*

2 Chronicles 36:14–16: *14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. 15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

Luke 11:47–51: *47 Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. 48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. 49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: 50 That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; 51 From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.*

Notes on next page...

“The Lord never turned away a soul that came to Him in sincerity and humility. Why did he turn Saul away unanswered? The king had by his own act forfeited the benefits of all the methods of inquiring of God. He had rejected the counsel of Samuel the prophet; he had exiled David, the chosen of God; he had slain the priests of the Lord. Could he expect to be answered by God when he had cut off the channels of communication that Heaven had ordained? He had sinned away the Spirit of grace, and could he be answered by dreams and revelations from the Lord? Saul did not turn to God with humility and repentance. It was not pardon for sin and reconciliation with God, that he sought, but deliverance from his foes. By his own stubbornness and rebellion he had cut himself off from God.” —Ibid., p. 676.

PRQ3. At what point did God send more information through the prophets and what happened when they kept rejecting it?

Tuesday, September 26

3. More Prophets

c. What did the last Old Testament prophet prophesy and how was that partially fulfilled after a period of nearly 400 years without a prophet?

Malachi 4:5, 6; Matthew 11:11, 14.

Malachi 4:5-6: *5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

Matthew 11:11: *11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

Matthew 11:14: *14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

PRQ3. *At what point did God send more information through the prophets and what happened when they kept rejecting it?*

Wednesday, September 27

4. The New Testament

a. Why was there no need for the usual kind of prophets when Jesus was on earth? Hebrews 1:1, 2; 1 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 1:23.

Hebrews 1:1-2: *1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

1 Timothy 3:16: *16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Matthew 1:23: *23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

“The priest did not think that this babe was the One of whom Moses had written, ‘A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you.’ Acts 3:22. He did not think that this babe was He whose glory Moses had asked to see. But One greater than Moses lay in the priest’s arms; and when he enrolled the child’s name, he was enrolling the name of One who was the foundation of the whole Jewish economy. That name was to be its death warrant; for the system of sacrifices and offerings was waxing old; the type had almost reached its antitype, the shadow its substance.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 52.

“Before this the Spirit had been in the world; from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men’s hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel their need of the Spirit, and then He would come.” —Ibid., p. 669.

PRQ4. How is the New Testament to be received in comparison to the glorious manifestation of God in the Old Testament?

Wednesday, September 27

4. The New Testament

b. How do we compare the New Testament with the Old and what should we do about it? 2 Corinthians 3:8; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16–18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 20.

2 Corinthians 3:8: *8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

Joel 2:28-29: *28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

Acts 2:16–18: *16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:*

1 Thessalonians 5:19-20: *19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesyings.*

“The types and shadows of the sacrificial service, with the prophecies, gave the Israelites a veiled, indistinct view of the mercy and grace to be brought to the world by the revelation of Christ. To Moses was unfolded the significance of the types and shadows pointing to Christ. He saw to the end of that which was to be done away when, at the death of Christ, type met antitype. He saw that only through Christ can man keep the moral law. By transgression of this law man brought sin into the world, and with sin came death. Christ became the propitiation for man’s sin. He proffered His perfection of character in the place of man’s sinfulness. He took upon Himself the curse of disobedience. The sacrifices and offerings pointed forward to the sacrifice He was to make. The slain lamb typified the Lamb that was to take away the sin of the world. . . . “Without Christ, the transgressor was left under its curse, with no hope of pardon. The ministration had of itself no glory, but the promised Saviour, revealed in the types and shadows of the ceremonial law, made the moral law glorious.” — Selected Messages, bk. 1, p. 237.

PRQ4. How is the New Testament to be received in comparison to the glorious manifestation of God in the Old Testament?

Thursday, September 28

5. The Last Days

a. How do we know that Joel was speaking of God’s final remnant and how does the New Testament reinforce the need of the spirit of prophecy? Joel 2:32; Revelation 12:17; 19:10.

Joel 2:32: *32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*

Revelation 12:17: *17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 19:10: *10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

“God has given us, as His servants, our work. He has given us a message to bear to His people. For thirty years we have been receiving the words of God and speaking them to His people. We have trembled at the responsibility, which we have accepted with much prayer and meditation. We have stood as God’s ambassadors, in Christ’s stead beseeching souls to be reconciled to God. We have warned of danger as God has presented before us the perils of His people. Our work has been given us of God. What, then, will be the condition of those who refuse to hear the words which God has sent them, because they cross their track or reprove their wrongs? If you are thoroughly convinced that God has not spoken by us, why not act in accordance with your faith and have no more to do with a people who are under so great a deception as this people are? If you have been moving according to the dictates of the Spirit of God you are right and we are wrong. God is either teaching His church, reproving their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil. In arraying yourself against the servants of God you are doing a work either for God or for the devil. ‘By their fruits ye shall know them.’ What stamp does your work bear? It will pay to look critically at the result of your course.” — Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 229, 230.

PRQ5. What are we to expect from God in the days just before the end of the world?

Friday, September 29

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Why is it so urgent that we have communication with God?**
- 2. How was God's intention revealed that the people should understand a deeper meaning than just the basic written words of the law?**
- 3. At what point did God send more information through the prophets and what happened when they kept rejecting it?**
- 4. How is the New Testament to be received in comparison to the glorious manifestation of God in the Old Testament?**
- 5. What are we to expect from God in the days just before the end of the world?**